PUTUMAYO

JUMP COMICS SQ.
屍鬼
SHIKI
11
原作 小野不由美
漫画 藤崎竜
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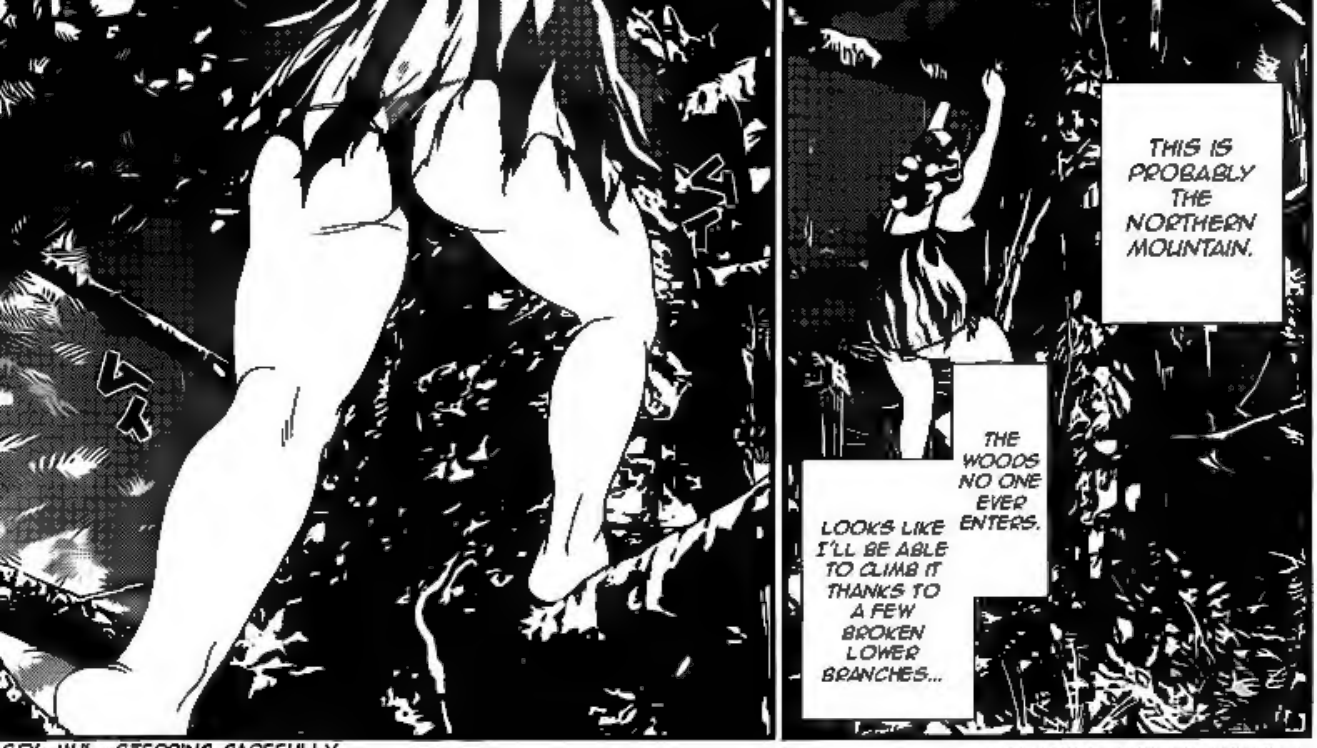
199X年猛暑の夏から始まった凄惨な事件…。外場村（とばむら）で起こった人と屍鬼による争いは、遂に終わりの時を告げようとしていた。『生』と『死』に囚われ続けた両者に、果たして安住の地はあるのか…。今、その答えが出る……。

JUMP COMICS
ジャンプ・コミックス

FUYUMI ONO × RYU FUJISAKI

YASUKO, STILL WITH HUMAN HEART, ALONE...
NOVEMBER, 7 MONDAY
TOMOBIKI
DAWN
屍鬼
SFX: TATATA - RUNNING
BEASTS' BREATH REEKING OF BLOOD...
SFX: HAA - HEAVY BREATHING, TATATA - CHASING
THEY SENSED ME AND ARE CHASING ME!
STRAY DOGS!!!

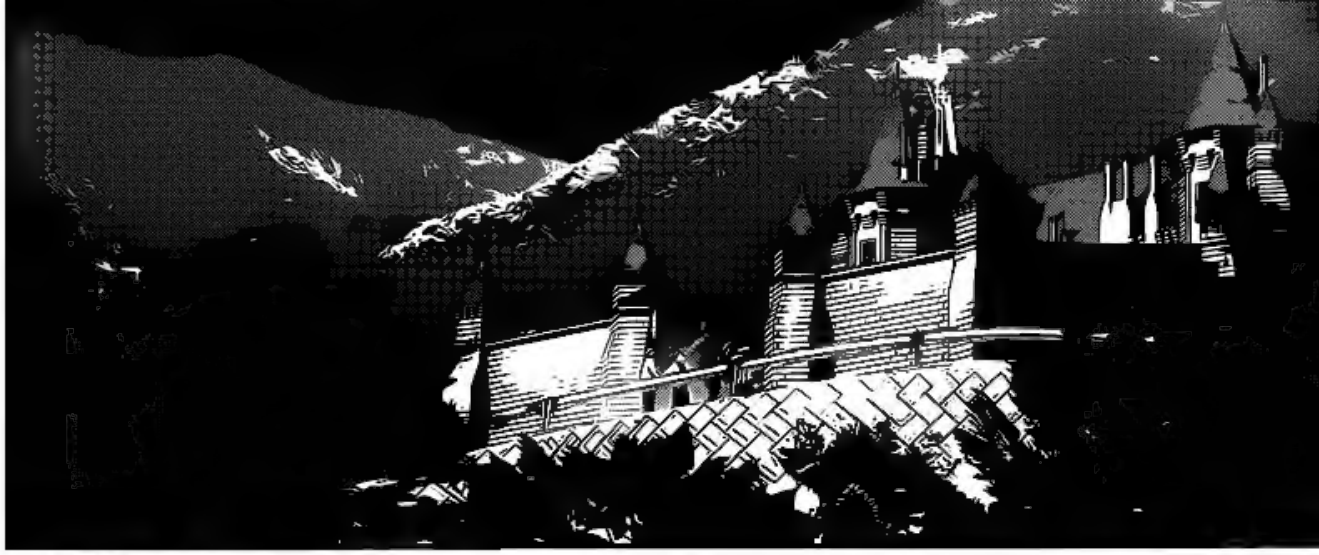
SFX: HAA - HEAVY BREATHING
SFX: BIRI - RIP
SFX: GAO - ROAR
HOPELESS... I'LL DIE LIKE THIS, TORN TO PIECES BY RABID BEASTS!
WAIT! I MAY HAVE A CHANCE, IF I CLIMB UP THAT TREE!!!
ZOOO!!!


THIS IS PROBABLY THE NORTHERN MOUNTAIN.
THE WOODS NO ONE EVER ENTERS.
LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO CLIMB IT THANKS TO A FEW BROKEN LOWER BRANCHES...

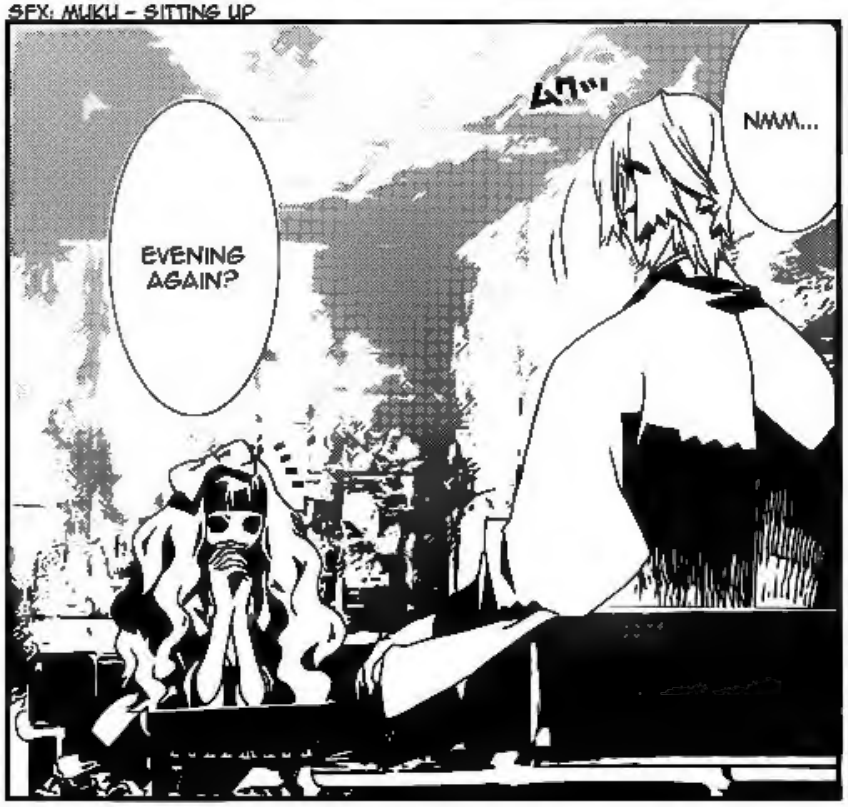
SFX: MUI – STEPPING CAREFULLY

SFX: GURU – TURNING THE HEAD

屍鬼
JC最新10巻発売中!!
ALLOW ME TO TELL YOU SOMETHING, SINCE YOU DON'T REALIZE IT YOURSELF... PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE CALLED HYPOCRITES.
I DO NOT WANT TO BECOME A MASS MURDERER. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS RIGHTEOUS JUSTIFICE WHEN IT COMES TO KILLING OTHERS, NO MATTER WHAT MORAL DUTY OBLIGES YOU TO.
[新潮文庫刊『屍鬼』より]
Original Story by: Ono Fuyumi Manga by: Fumiaki Ryuu RAWs by: Vicissitude
原作／小野不由美 漫画／藤崎竜
MUROI SEISHIN, PART 2: DECAY AND DEGRADATION



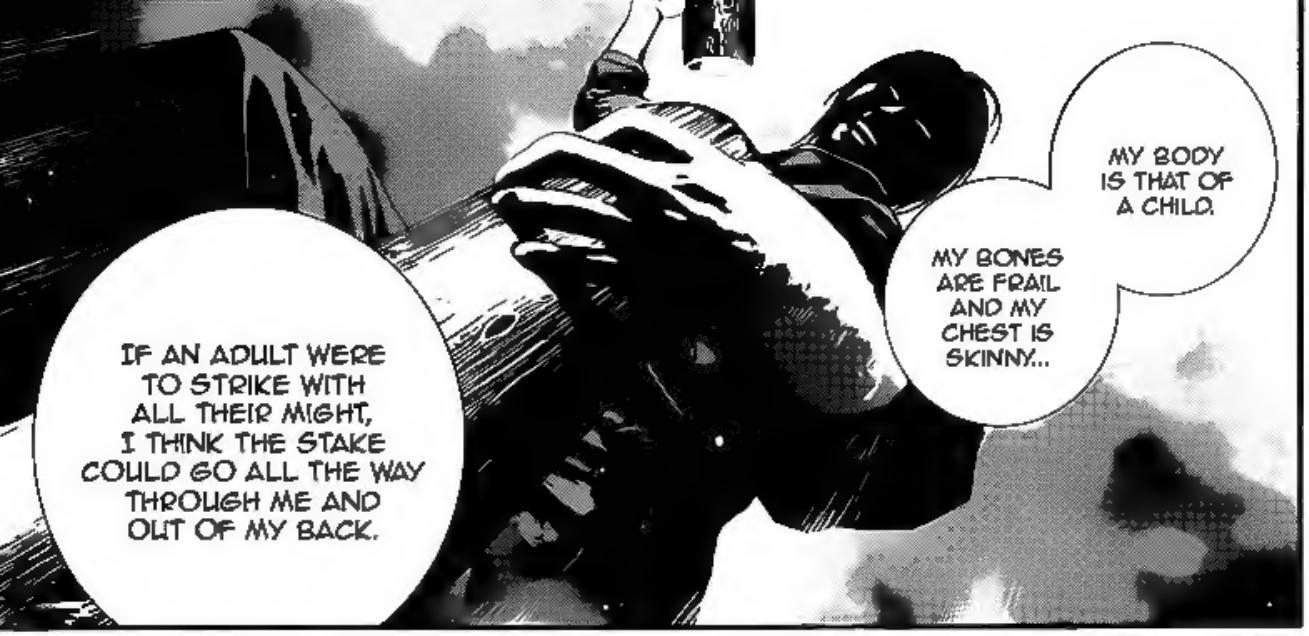
SFX: MUKU - SITTING UP



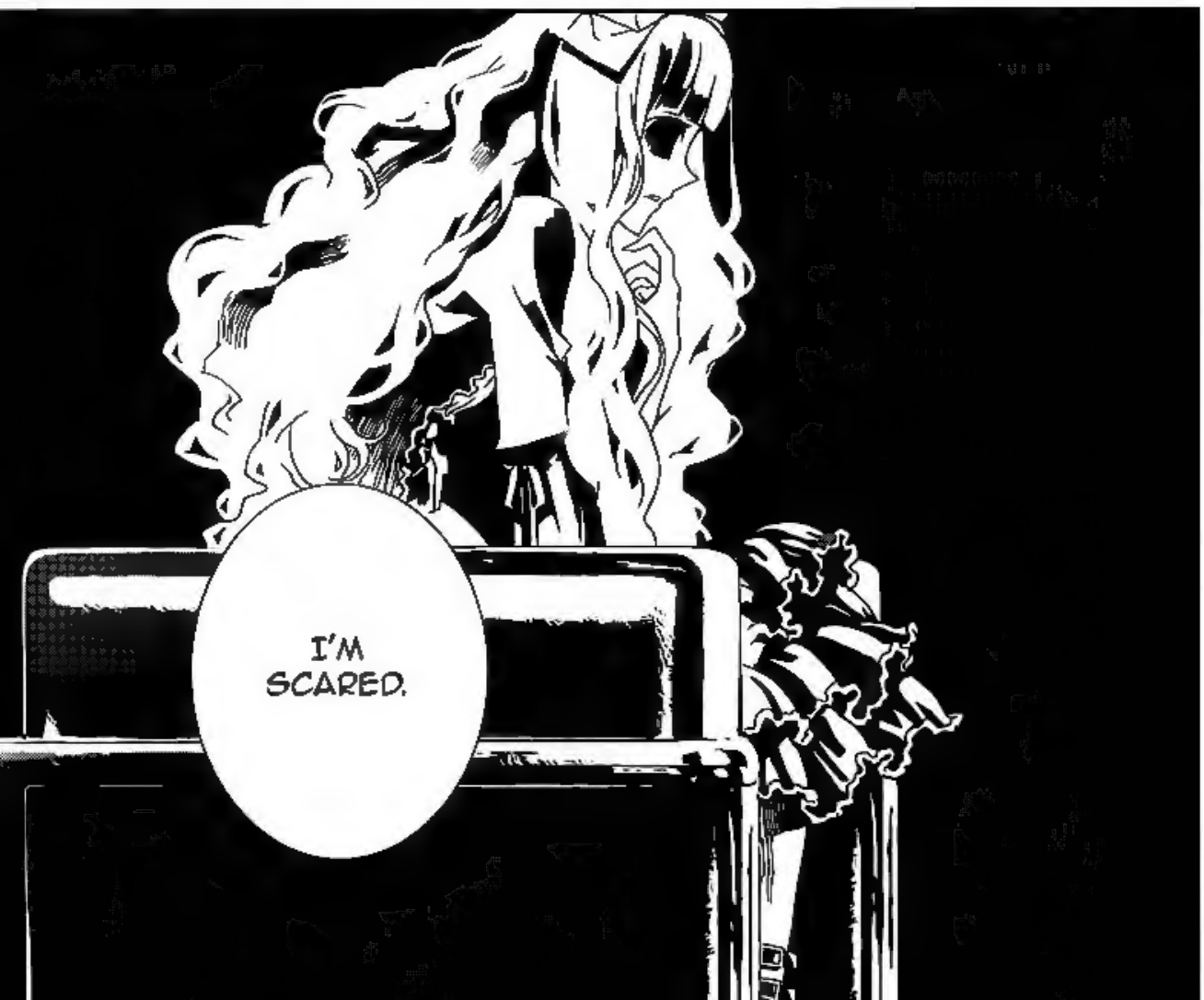
OZAKI-SENSEI, EVEN THOUGH HE SUSTAINED INJURIES HIMSELF, RETURNED TO HIS CLINIC TO TEND TO INJURIES OF THE WOUNDED.
ABOUT THE RECENT EVENTS... TATSUMI LAUNCHED HIS ATTACK ON THE VILLAGERS, PARALYZING THEIR MOVEMENT FOR THE TIME BEING...
TOSHIO GOT WOUNDED TOO...
I SEE...
DAWN IS COMING.
AND WITH IT, THE VILLAGERS WILL RESUME THEIR SHIKI HUNT.
I WONDER, IF THE REST OF US USED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE...

SUNAKO....
AND THEN THEY MIGHT FINALLY FIND THIS SECRET UNDERGROUND ROOM.
IF, AFTER THEY WILL HAVE SEARCHED THE VILLAGE THOROUGHLY, I AM STILL NOWHERE TO BE FOUND, THEY WILL TURN TO THIS MANSION IN THEIR SUSPICIONS ONCE AGAIN.

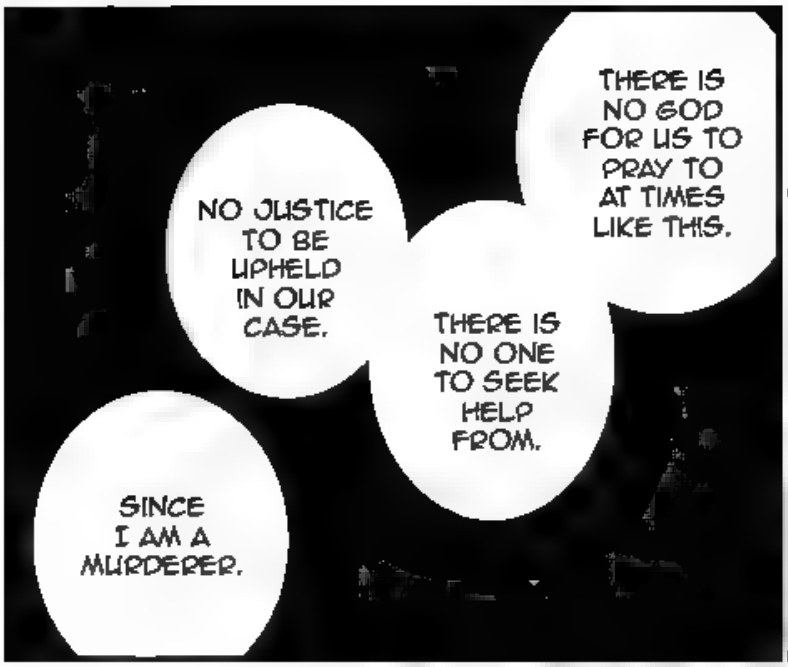
IT ACHED HERE, CHIZURU?


MY BODY IS THAT OF A CHILD.
MY BONES ARE FRAIL AND MY CHEST IS SKINNY...
IF AN ADULT WERE TO STRIKE WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT, I THINK THE STAKE COULD GO ALL THE WAY THROUGH ME AND OUT OF MY BACK.

SFX: GATA – TREMBLING



I MAY REALLY BE AN ATROCIOUS MASS MURDERER, BUT I STILL DON'T CONSIDER THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE I KILLED TO BE SOMETHING BIG.
I REALLY KILLED SO MANY PEOPLE...
DON'T YOU FIND IT... IRONIC?


SINCE I AM A MURDERER.
THERE IS NO ONE TO SEEK HELP FROM.
NO JUSTICE TO BE UPHELD IN OUR CASE.
THERE IS NO GOD FOR US TO PRAY TO AT TIMES LIKE THIS.

AAH...

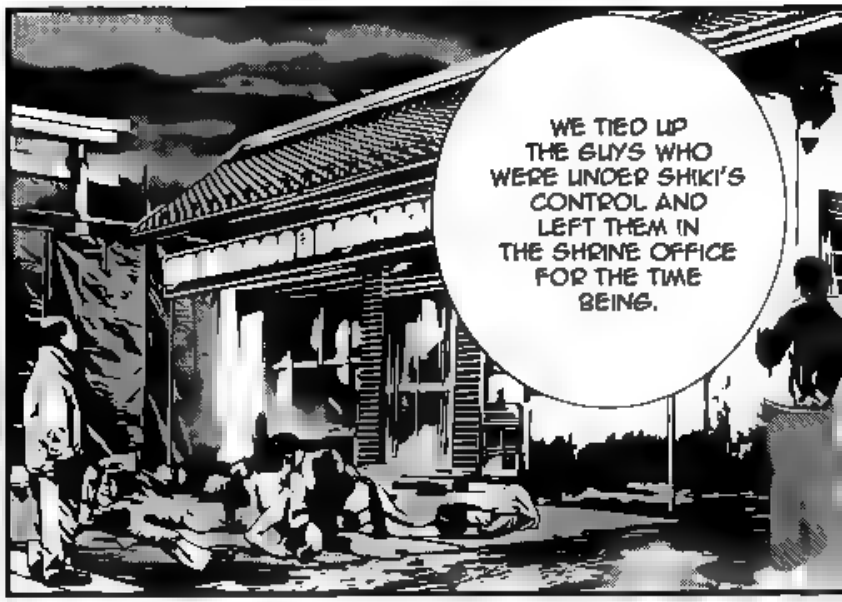
MUROI -SAN.

IF I'M LEFT WITHOUT HUMAN BLOOD, I'LL DIE, AS SIMPLE AS THAT... I BECAME WHAT I AM BECAUSE OF THE BLOODTHIRSTY PROVIDENCE.
BUT MY BECOMING A MURDERER WAS NOT BECAUSE OF MY IDEOLOGY, NOR BECAUSE OF MY VIEW ON VALUES.

THIS IS WHAT HAVING BEEN ABANDONED BY GOD MEANS...

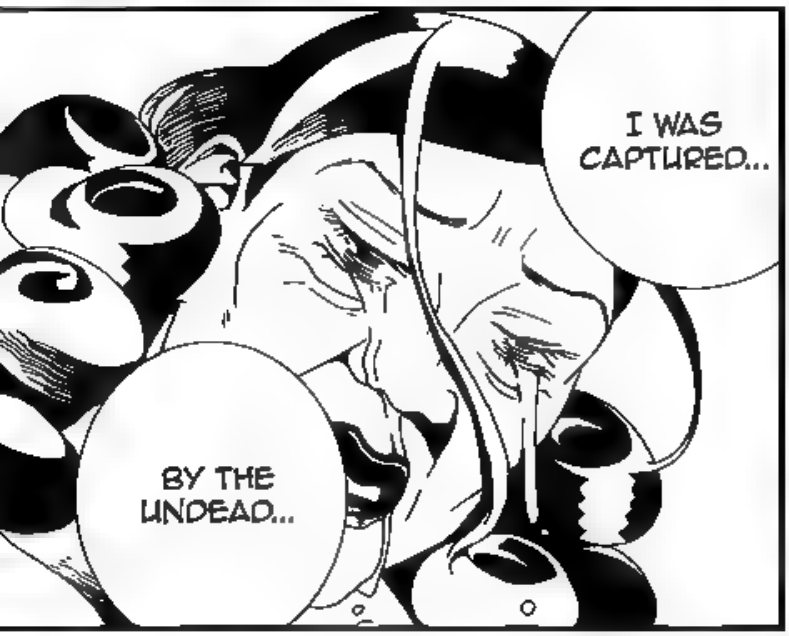
PHEW...
THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A NIGHT.

HEY, YOU!
WHAT HAPPEN-ED TO YOU?!
HM?


WE TIED UP THE GUYS WHO WERE UNDER SHIKI'S CONTROL AND LEFT THEM IN THE SHRINE OFFICE FOR THE TIME BEING.

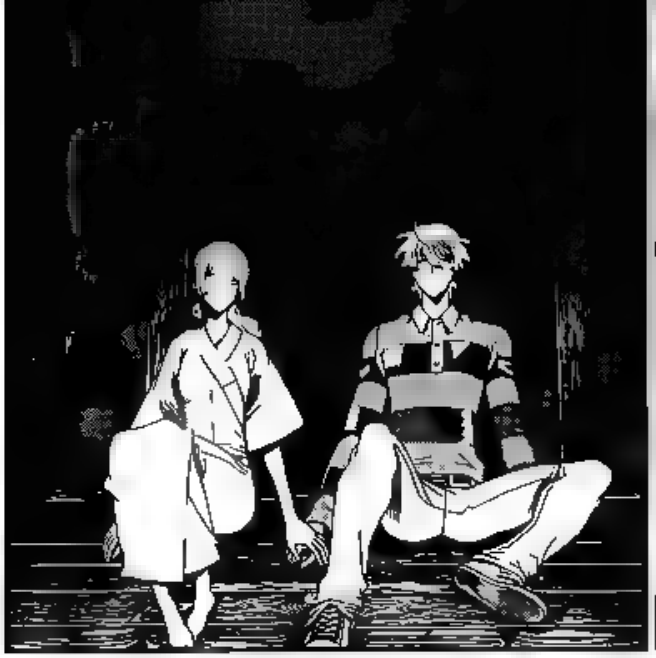
SFX UUU
YOUNG DOCTOR SAID THEY SHOULD COME BACK TO THEIR SENSES IN 4-5 DAYS.

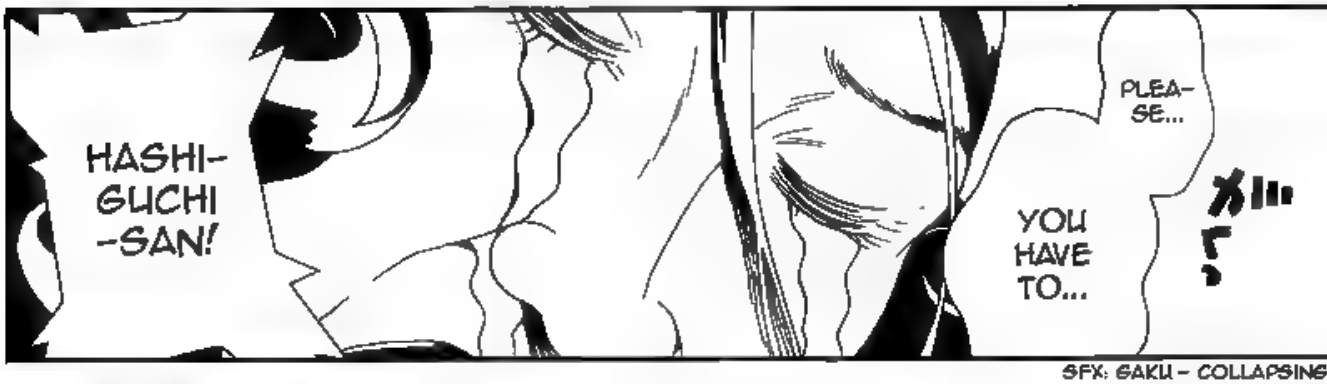
SFX: YOZO - STAGGERING



SFX: ZAWA - CROWD NOISE

SFX: GAKU - LEGS GIVING OUT UNDER HER

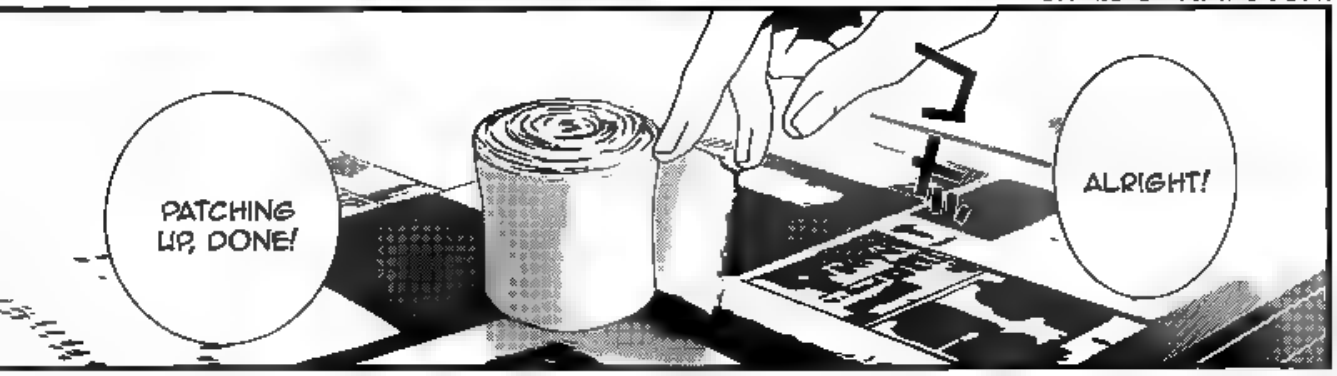


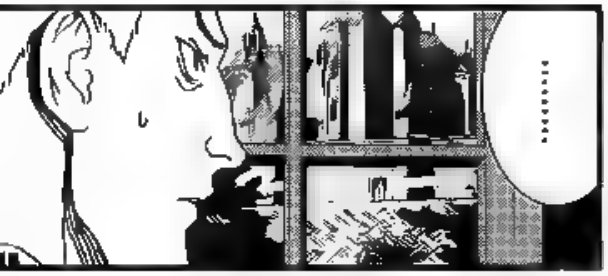


SFX: GAKU – COLLAPSING

UNBELIEVABLE... TO THINK THAT THEY'RE STILL LEFT IN PLACES LIKE THAT!
WELL THEN! ONCE IT BRIGHTENS A LITTLE MORE, WE'LL GO AND SEARCH THE MOUNTAINS HIGH AND LOW!

SFX: KOTO – PUTTING DOWN

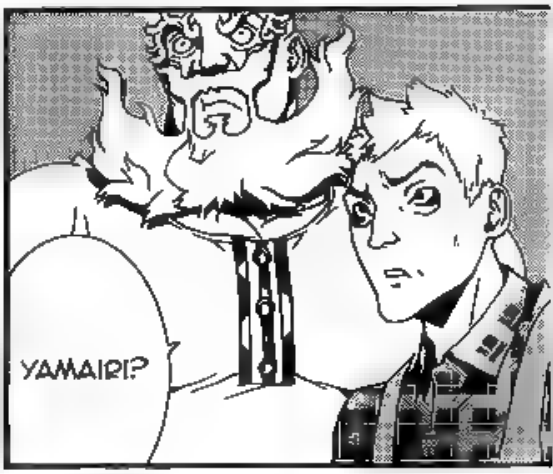




THAT KIRISHIKI SUNAKO AND HER SERVANTS STILL AIN'T FOUND. WONDER, WHERE THEY HIDIN'?
IT WAS 'EM WHO MADE THOSE GUYS ATTACK US, YEAH?

SFX: PAKU – MUNCH

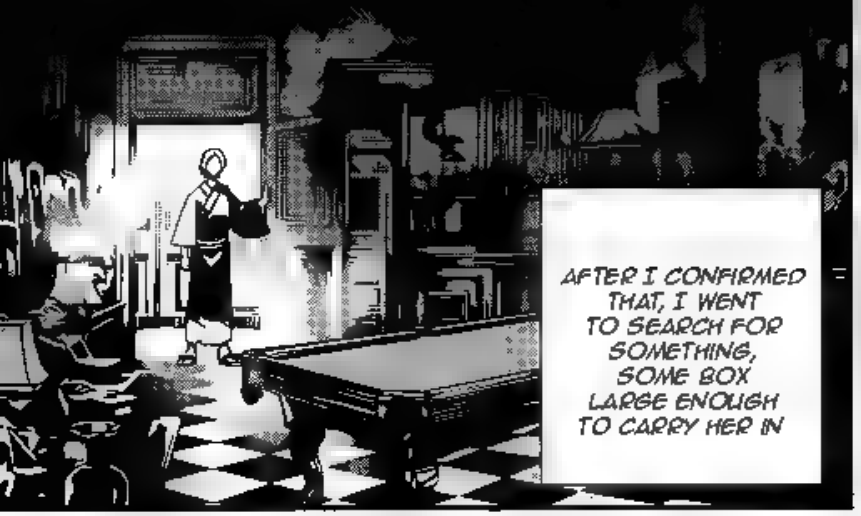
ALL THE RESIDENTS OF THAT DISTRICT DIED IN THE SUMMER, AND SINCE THEN NO ONE WENT THERE, I THINK?
THERE'S A VERY GOOD CHANCE THAT'S WHERE THEIR NEST IS.



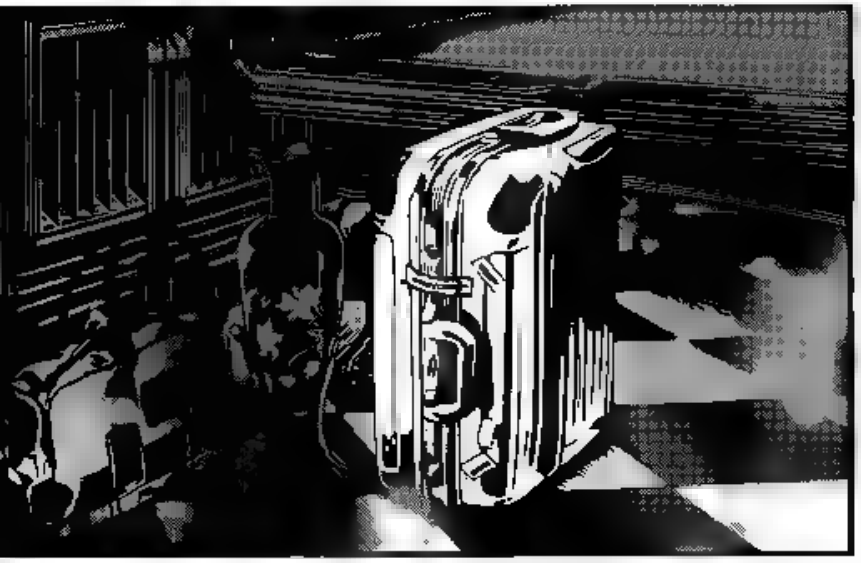
SFX: GUN – SWOOSH

THERE MIGHT BE AN UNDERGROUND ROOM IN THAT MANSION.
HM?
Only now, huh?
TOSHIO...
I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING...
SFX: UTO – DOZING OFF
I DO NOT WANT TO FALL ASLEEP...
THIS MAY BE OUR FAREWELL...

BY THE TIME YOU AWAKEN NEXT TIME, IT'LL BE COMPLETED.
SO DON'T WORRY.
I WANTED TO SURVIVE AT LEAST TILL THE MOMENT I LEARN THE ENDING OF YOUR CAIN AND ABEL STORY...
I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT, MUROI-SAN...
I LOVED YOUR WRITING VERY MUCH...
IT IS TRUE, HONEST--...
--LY...



NEXT TIME SHE'LL BE AWAKENED BY A STAKE OF ROUGH WOOD, COVERED WITH HANGNAILS, RIPPING THROUGH HER CHEST...



SHE FELL ASLEEP HAVING NO COURAGE TO VOICE THIS UNSAID THOUGHT...

SFX BATA - CLOSE WITH A SNAP

SFX GORO ROLL

SFX GACHA - DOOR OPENING

GARAGE

I WONDER, IF THERE'S ANY CAR IN THERE?

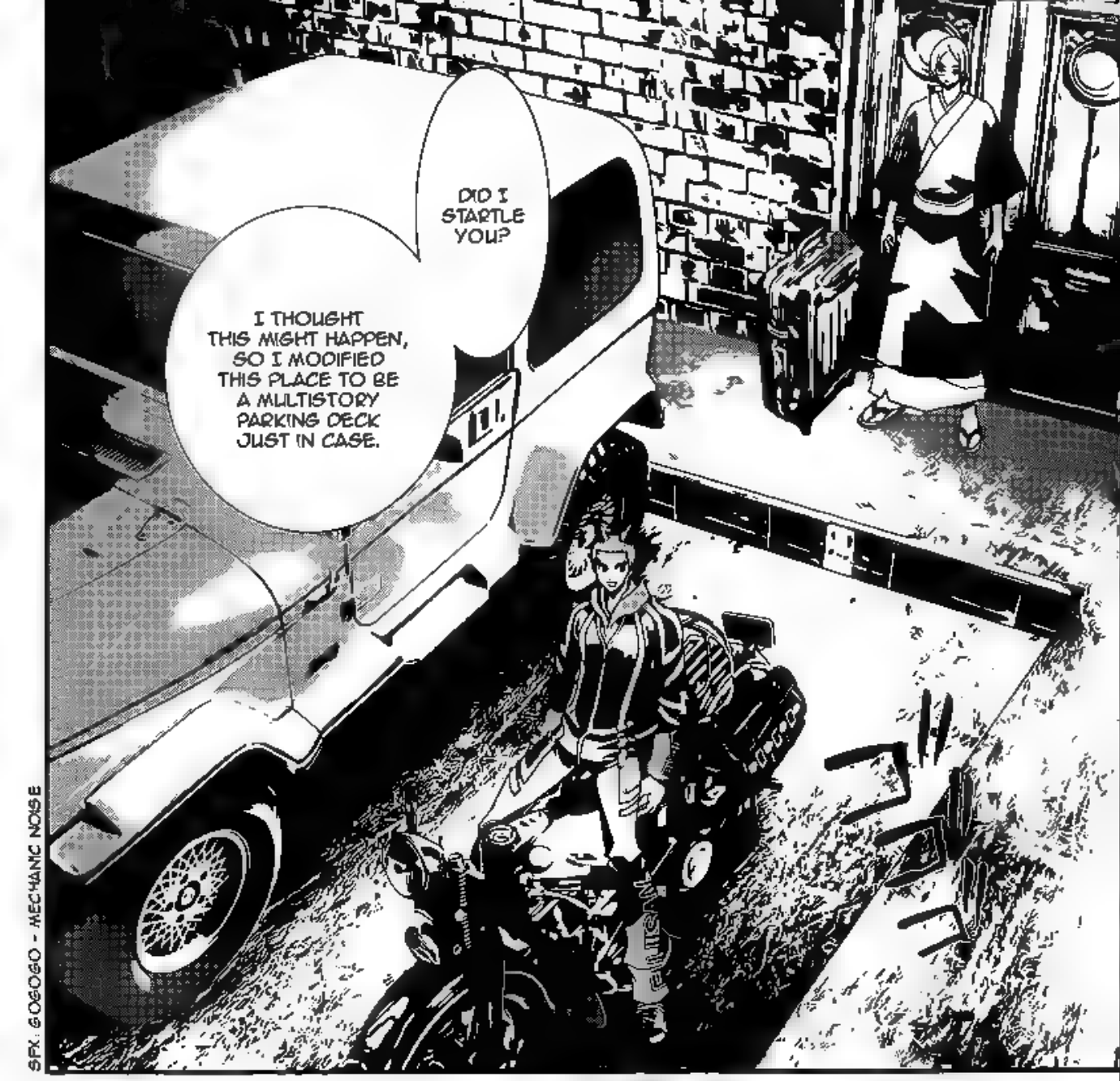
THE GATES ARE DESTROYED.

IF MY ESCAPE ATTEMPT GOES AWRY, I'LL BE IMMEDIATELY DISCOVERED BY THE GUARDS.

SFX. GACHA - DOOR OPENING

SFX. KYORO - LOOKING AROUND

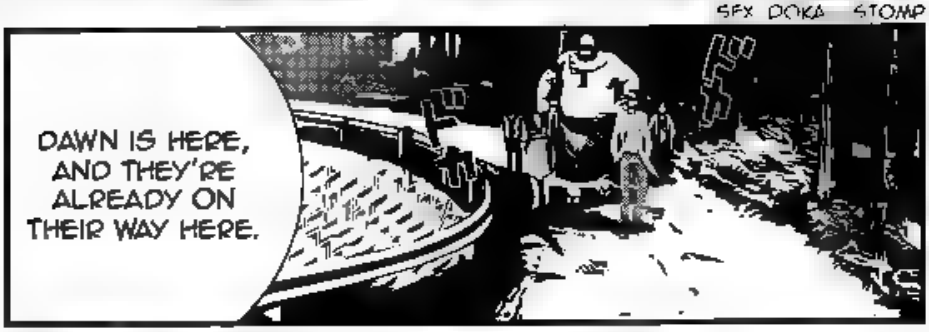
SFX. GOBON - CHING

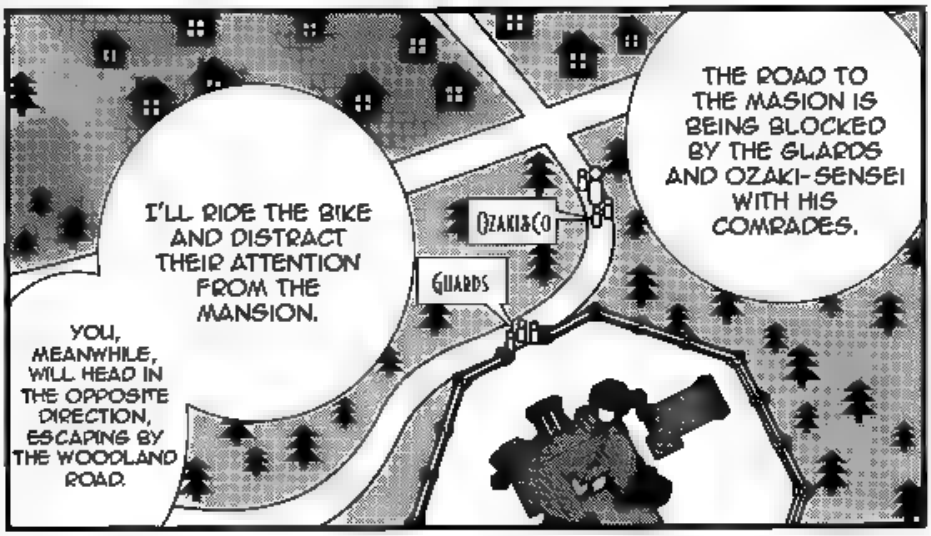

DID I STARTLE YOU?
I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN, SO I MODIFIED THIS PLACE TO BE A MULTISTORY PARKING DECK JUST IN CASE.
SFX: GOGOGO - MECHANIC NOISE

SFX GASHA - CLICK

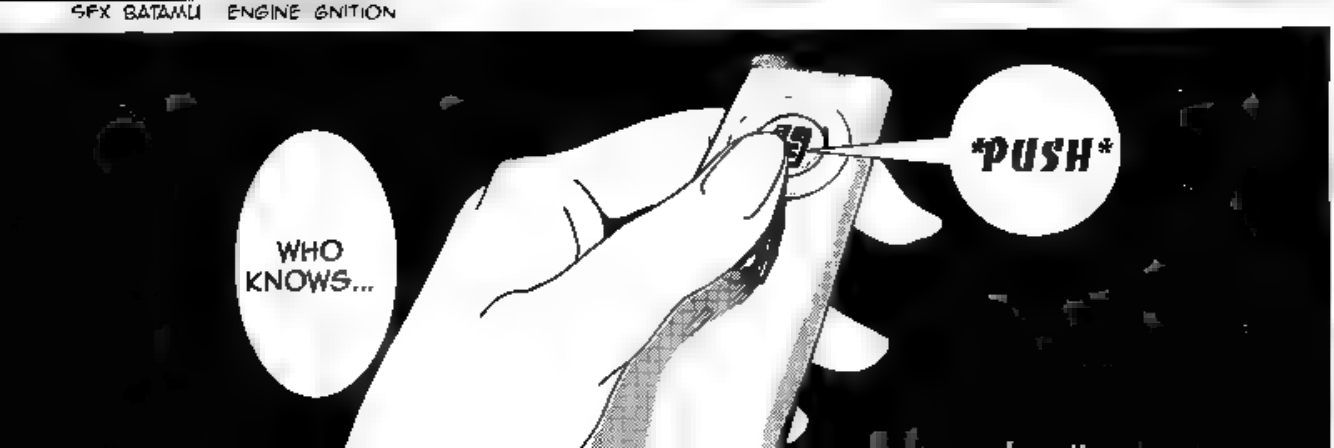
THERE'RE SIGNS YOUNG DOCTOR OZAKI AND HIS GROUP LEARNED ABOUT THE HIDDEN DUNGEON.
WE NEED TO HURRY, MURO!-SAN!
COME ON!
SFX: GON - PUSHING

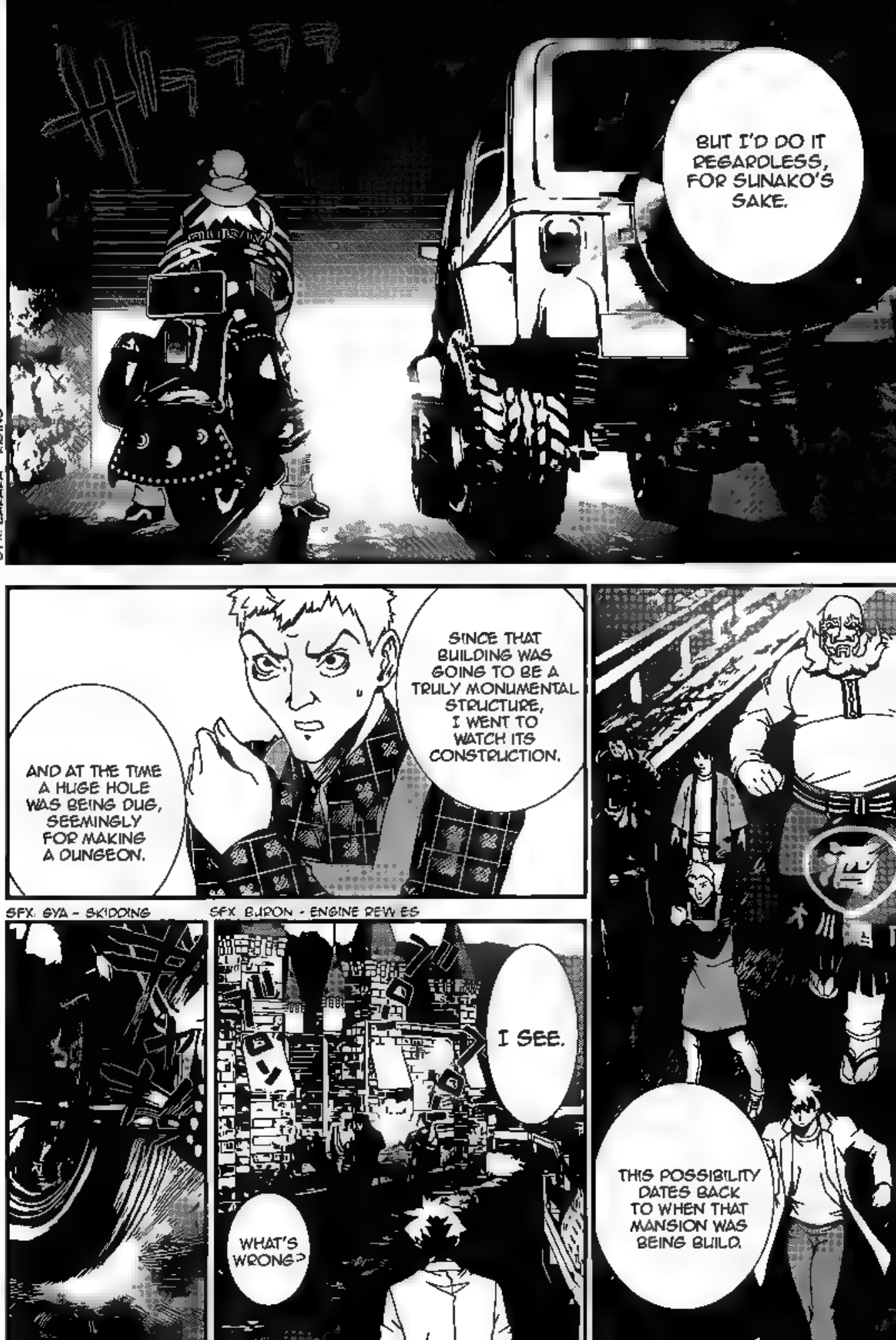
SFX DOKA STOMP




I'LL RIDE THE BIKE AND DISTRACT THEIR ATTENTION FROM THE MANSION.
YOU, MEANWHILE, WILL HEAD IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, ESCAPING BY THE WOODLAND ROAD.
THE ROAD TO THE MASION IS BEING BLOCKED BY THE GUARDS AND OZAKI-SENSEI WITH HIS COMRADES.
OZAKI&CO
GUARDS

SFX BATAMU ENGINE IGNITION




SFX: ZAZAZA - RISING
BUT I'D DO IT REGARDLESS, FOR SUNAKO'S SAKE.
SINCE THAT BUILDING WAS GOING TO BE A TRULY MONUMENTAL STRUCTURE, I WENT TO WATCH ITS CONSTRUCTION.
AND AT THE TIME A HUGE HOLE WAS BEING DUG, SEEMINGLY FOR MAKING A DUNGEON.
SFX: GYA - SKIDDING
SFX: BUPON - ENGINE REVVES
I SEE.
WHAT'S WRONG?
THIS POSSIBILITY DATES BACK TO WHEN THAT MANSION WAS BEING BUILD.

SFX: GUA - SKIDDING

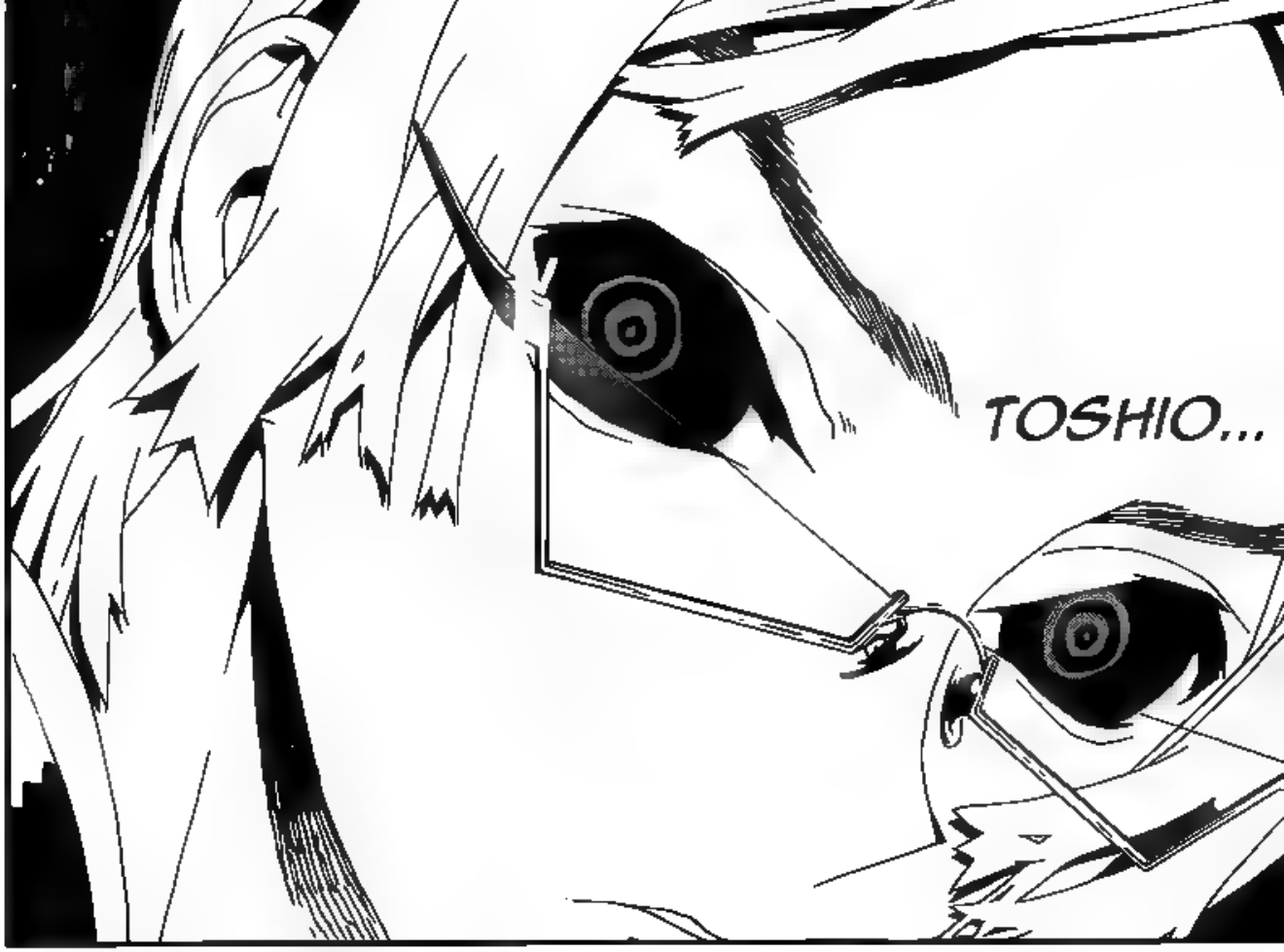
SFX: KUI – LIFTING

SFX: KIK! – SCREECH

SFX: BUO – ENGINE WHIRRING

SFX: BUON – WHISTLE

ブルン
BLION – ENGINE ROAR
Jeep

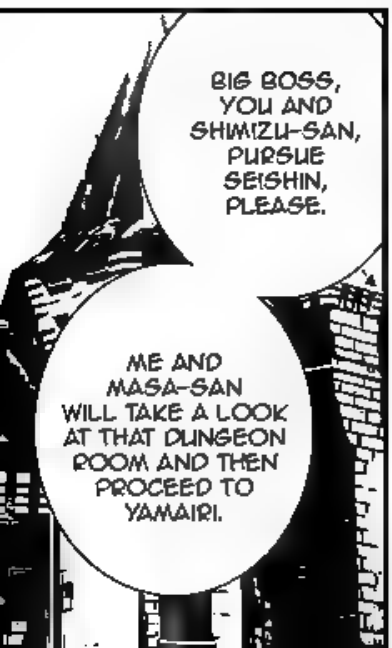

TOSHIO...

SEISHIN...

SFX: GYAGYA - SCREECH

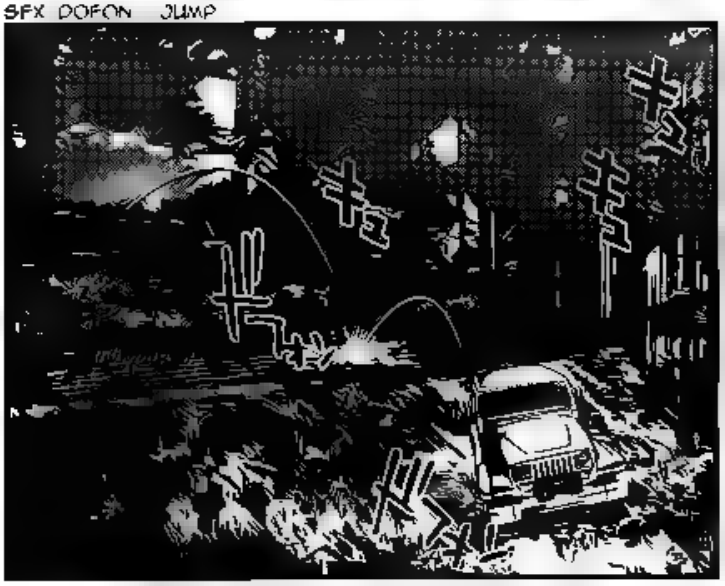
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...!!!
SO EVEN THE TEMPLE FELL INTO THEIR HANDS, HUH?!!

Y-YOLIN' DOCTOR...
THAT WAS... YOLIN' PRIEST JUST NOW!!!


BIG BOSS, YOU AND SHIMIZU-SAN, PURSUE SEISHIN, PLEASE.
ME AND MASA-SAN WILL TAKE A LOOK AT THAT DUNGEON ROOM AND THEN PROCEED TO YAMAIRI.

YEAH...

SFX DOFON JUMP



SFX: KURA – DIZZY

SFX K HALTING

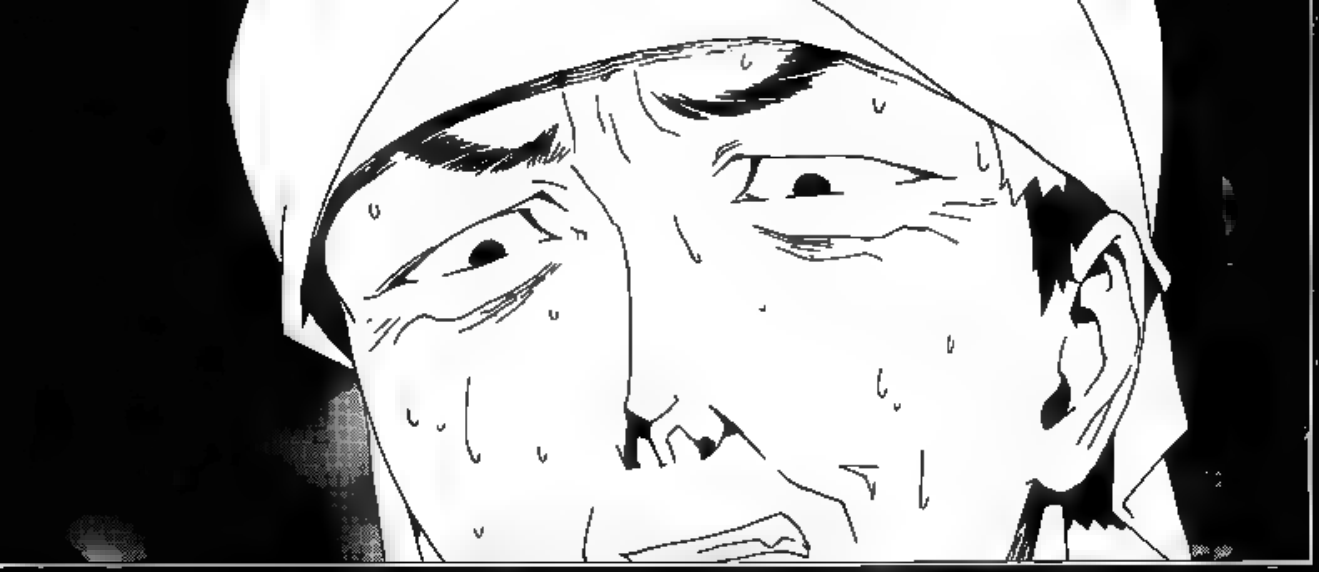
IT WILL BE HARD ON SUNAKO, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE I'LL HIDE IN THE TEMPLE AND WAIT FOR THE NIGHT...
IN THE WEAKENED STATE I'M IN, I WON'T BE ABLE TO ESCAPE WHILE CARRYING THE TRUNK
SFX DOSA THUD

20
SFX BATAN SHUTTING
SFX GORO ROLLING

SFX: SHA - SWEEPING
YESTERDAY I SAW TSURUMI-KUN AGAIN.
SHA SHA SWEEP
SFX: WA - NOISE
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE VILLAGE IS ABNORMALLY NOISY.
SFX: WA - NOISE
SFX: BIKU - STARTLED
HE'S ESCAP-ING!!!
UWA AAAA AAAA AAA!!!

SFX: SASAA - FALLING DOWN

STOP! STOR PLEASE!!!
I'M FROM THE TEMPLE!!!
GIMME A STAKE!!!
SFX: WATA - ANIMALISTIC EXCITMENT
SFX: HA - GASP
はっ
HELP ME. PLEASE!!!
MITSUO -SAN!!!



SFX: GOGOGO - TOASHING

SFX: PATA - STEPS

B-BUT... THAT VOICE... IT IS...
MITSUO -SAN!!!
MITSUO -SAN!!!
YOU CANNOT GO THERE!
LET US GO BACK!

MITSUO-SAN!!!
MITSUO-SAN!!!

TERRIFYING...
BUT NOT TSURUMI-KUN...

THESE MERCILESS PEOPLE WHO BRUTALLY BUTCHERED TSURUMI-KUN IN BROAD DAYLIGHT...

SFX: DOKA - STOMP

SFX: WAI - CHATTER

THEY CAME...

WE DO NOT KNOW OURSELVES YOUNG PRIEST'S WHEREABOUTS SINCE FRIDAY.

HUNT?
MADAM,
WHY DIDN'T PEOPLE FROM THE TEMPLE TAKE PART IN THE HUNT?

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG, MITSUO -SAN?
MIWAKO -SAN!

YOUNG PRIEST, YOUR SON, WAS HIDING IN THE KIRISHIKI MANSION ALL THIS TIME!

YOU MEAN YOU FOUND SEISHIN?
!

HE WAS CONSORTING WITH THE ENEMY!
OH, YES.

HOSTILITY?!

SFX: ZUI – THUMP
WHY DION'T YOU AND YOUR WORKERS LEND A HAND IN HUNTING?
ズイ
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE ALREADY SIDED WITH *THEM*, ISN'T IT?!
ズズズ

KYA!!!
MADAM, YOU BETTER QUIETLY HAND YOUNG PRIEST OVER TO US!
SFX: GA - GOLD
SHIMIZU-SAN, WE REALLY DIDN'T DO ANYTH--
YOU, OUT OF MY WAY!!!
SFX: DOSO - PUSH
SFX DON HIT
YOU BASTARD, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING TO MIWAKO-SAN?!
SFX DOSA THU
I SEE, EH.

LOOKS LIKE THESE PEOPLE REALLY ARE *THEIR* ALLIES.

MADAM, THIS WAY!
EH... ...?!

WE WERE RIGHT!
DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!!!

.....!!!
MIWAKO-SAN, RUN!!! YOU TOO, MOTHER!!!

SFX: STOMP, PUNCH, THUD
UWA AAA AA!!!
WE HONESTLY DIDN'T--!
PLEASE, STOP IT!!!
SFX: GUI - GRAB
SFX: ZUSHI - STOMP ON
GUA...!
SFX: AAAA!
MIWAKO-SAN!!!
SFX: GUI - GRAB

SFX: GU - DRAGGING DOWN

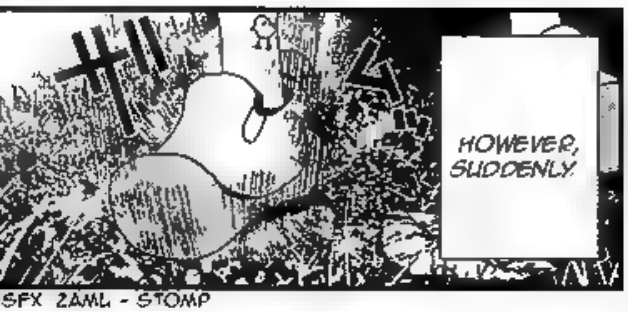
SFX: DOSA - FALLING

MADAM!!!

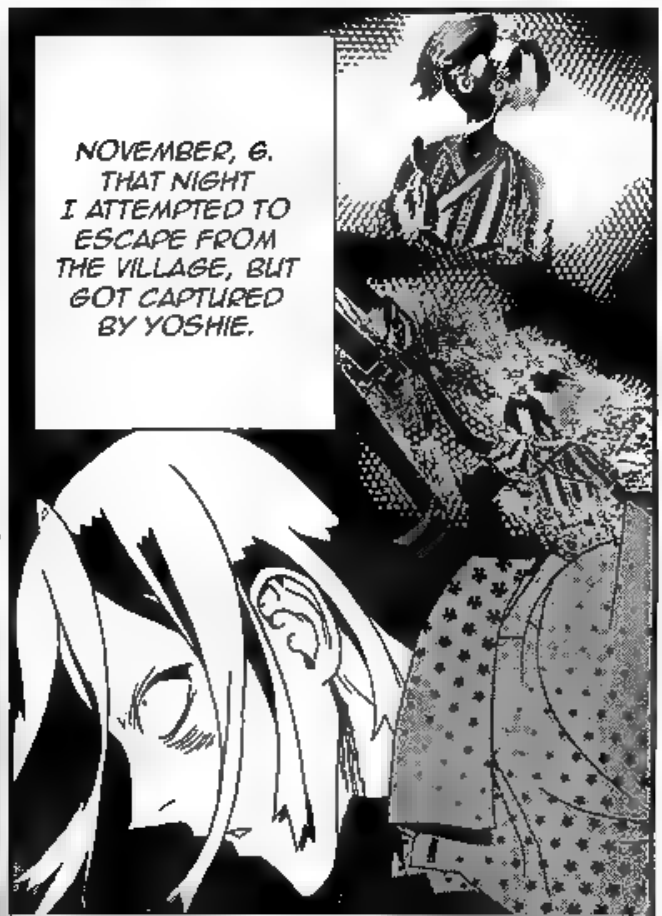
AWAITING THE ORDEAL OF JUSTICE...

SFX: SU -SIGH

SFX ZURU - DRAGGING



SFX ZAMU - STOMP



SFX HAKU - DOLL'S MOUTH OPENS AND CLOSES

SFX WA - DELIGHT

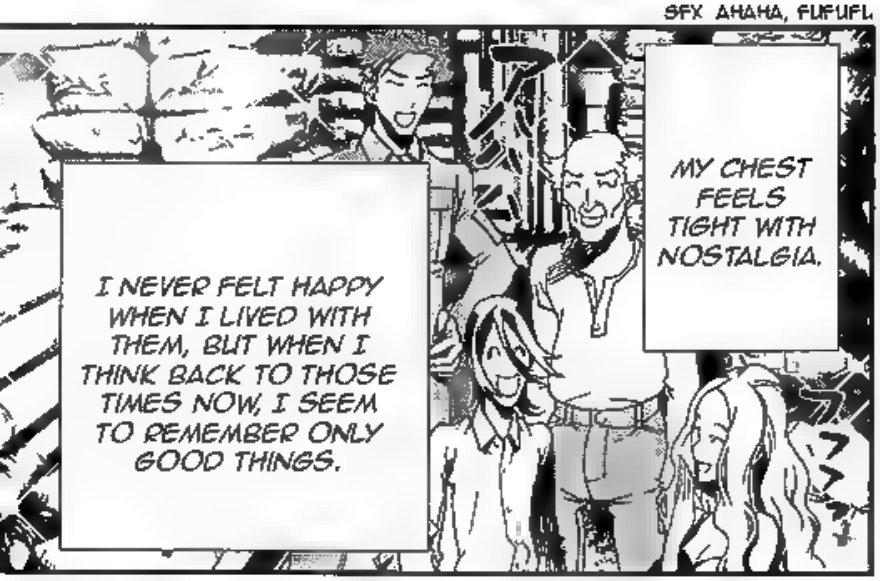
SFX ZUKA - ADVANCING

SFX: GURIN - JAW DISLOCATING
ぐりん
SHE COULDN'T JUST GIVE UP!!!
SUNAKO PROMISED ME!!!
SFX: KURU - TURNING
くる
SFX: BATAN - HARD THUD
HYAA AAA!!!

MAYBE I COULD GO FARTHER INTO THE MOUNTAINS AND FIND A DARK CAVE OR SOMETHING?
NO, NOT POSSIBLE. NOT REALISTIC AT ALL!
BUT WHERE TO GO?
I SHOULD NEED TO ESCAPE RIGHT AWAY!
SUSUKA
NO, MORNING WILL COME BEFORE I CAN REACH IT
THEN MAYBE I COULD RUN ALL THE WAY TO MIZORE TOWN?
MIZORE TOWN
OH, I THINK MIGHT KNOW
WHAT TO DO? WHAT TO DO THEN?
WHAT SHOULD I

SAN MURASAKO RICE SHOP

SFX: AHAHA, FUFUFU

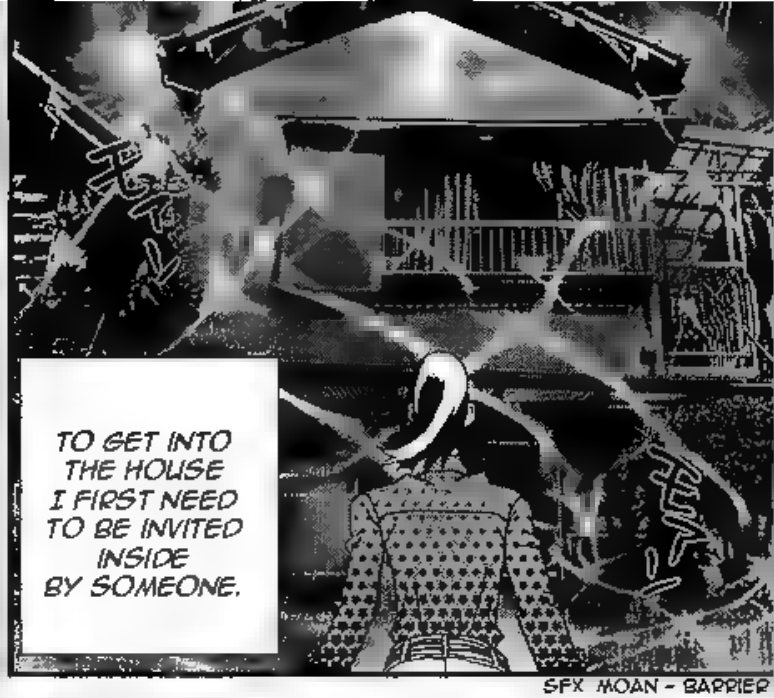

I NEVER FELT HAPPY WHEN I LIVED WITH THEM, BUT WHEN I THINK BACK TO THOSE TIMES NOW, I SEEM TO REMEMBER ONLY GOOD THINGS.
MY CHEST FEELS TIGHT WITH NOSTALGIA.

SFX: BUWA SOB

SFX: KON - SOFT THUD, SHU - THROW

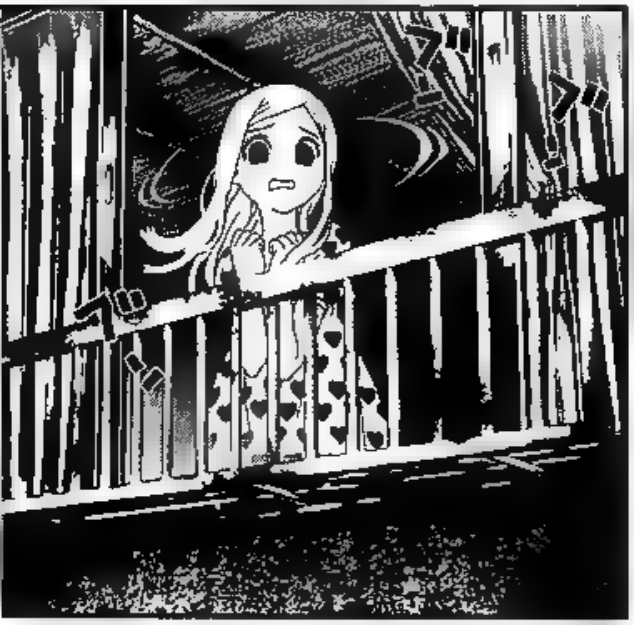
SFX: SU - PICK UP

SFX MOZO HESITANT

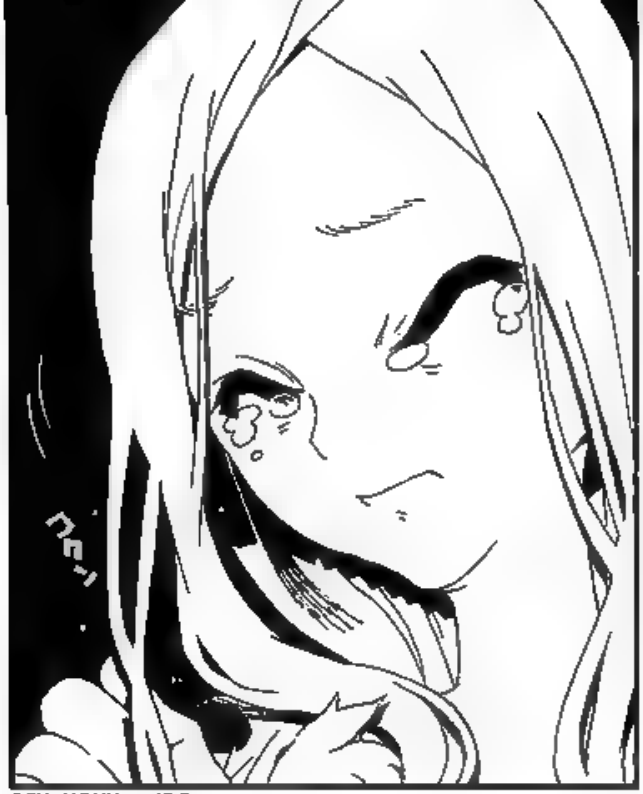


SFX MOAN - BARRIER

SFX BUN - SHAKING HER HEAD



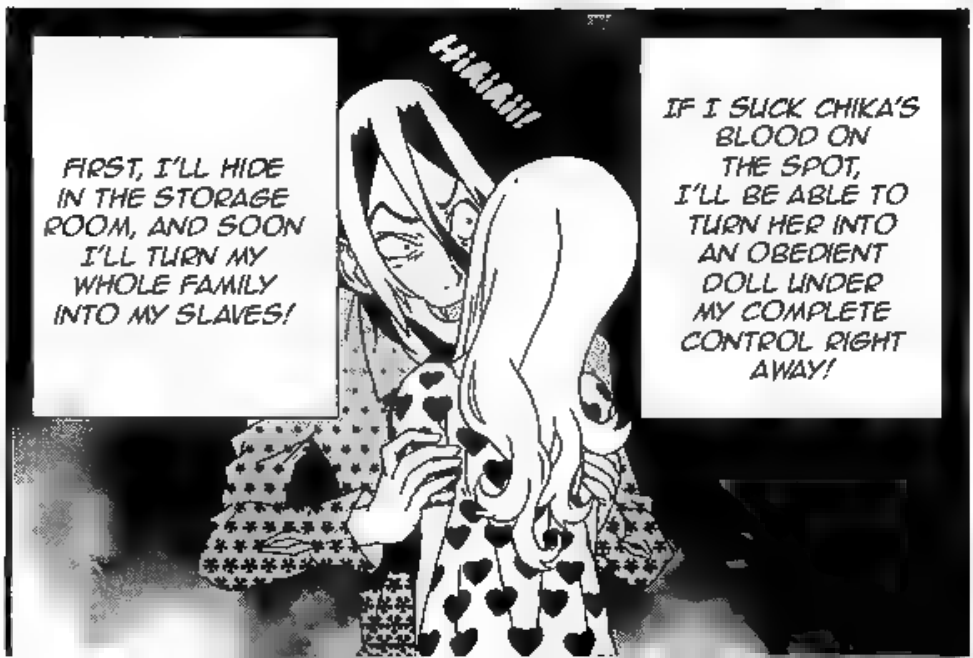
SFX SOWA - FRANTIC



SFX: KOKU - NOD

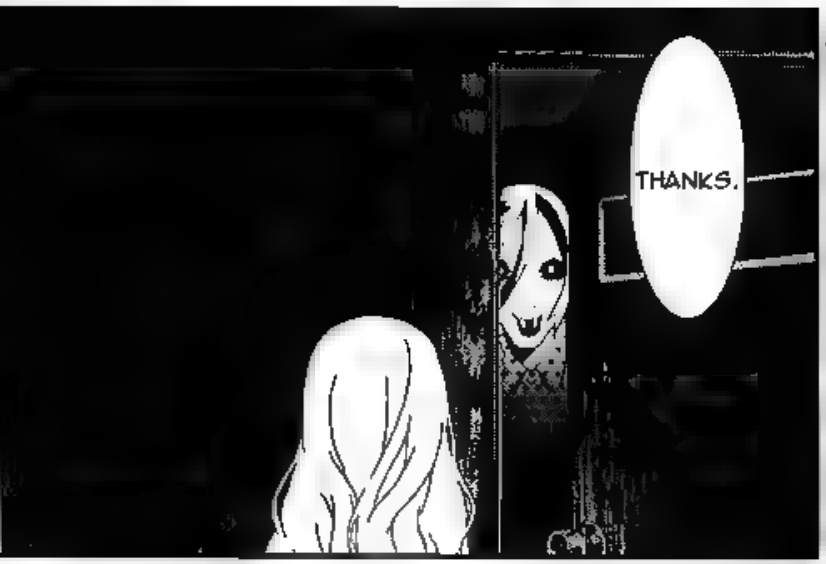
SFX: GACHI - SHIVERING

SFX: PATA - FOOTSTEPS, TON - PAT-PAT-PAT


FIRST, I'LL HIDE IN THE STORAGE ROOM, AND SOON I'LL TURN MY WHOLE FAMILY INTO MY SLAVES!
HAHAH!!
IF I SUCK CHIKA'S BLOOD ON THE SPOT, I'LL BE able TO TURN HER INTO AN OBEDIENT DOLL UNDER MY COMPLETE CONTROL RIGHT AWAY!

WAIT--

SFX: KII - DOOR OPENS



SFX: BA HT

--KA?
SFX: SAKU CLEAVE
THE SITUATION IN THE VILLAGE IS DIRE, AND EVERY AVAILABLE PERSON IS NEEDED, BUT I'M GLAD I DECIDED TO COME CHECK ON YOU REGARDLESS.
Don't look

A CRUEL UNCARING LIAR,
UNABLE TO SYMPATHIZE WITH OTHERS, LACKING ANY SHRED OF IMAGINATION,
NEVER HESITATING TO COLDLY USE OTHERS FOR HIS OWN ENDS...

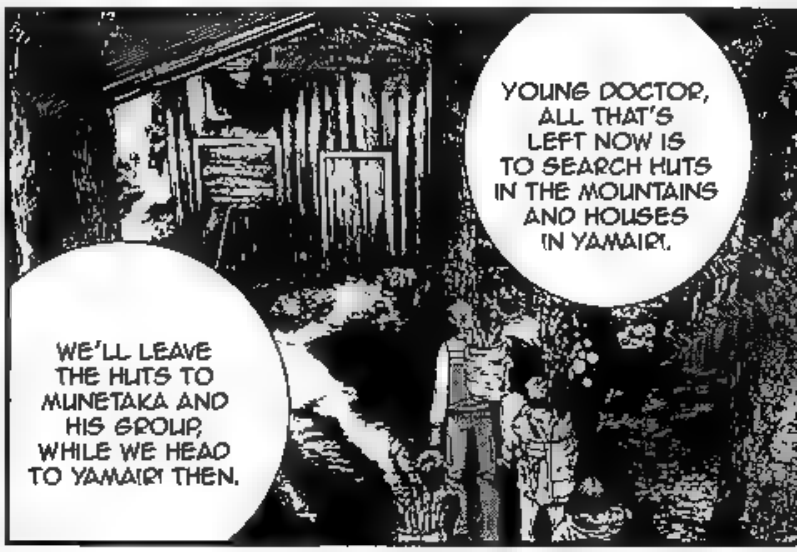
SFX: BATAN – FALLING WITH A THUD

Yuuki Natsuno, part 15: Mourning and Lies

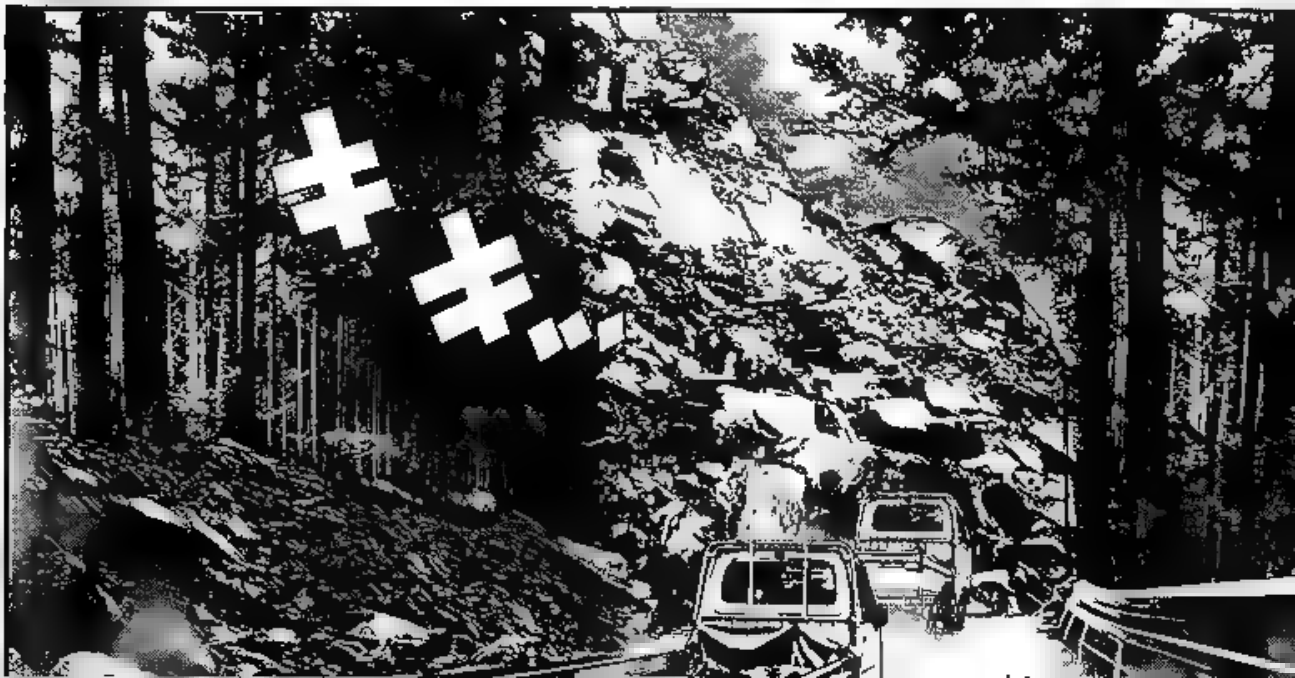
Original Story by Ono Fuyumi Manga by Fujisaki Ryuu

Chapter 39

SFX: BUON - SPEEDING


WE'LL LEAVE THE HUTS TO MUNETAKA AND HIS GROUP, WHILE WE HEAD TO YAMAIRI THEN.
YOUNG DOCTOR, ALL THAT'S LEFT NOW IS TO SEARCH HUTS IN THE MOUNTAINS AND HOUSES IN YAMAIRI.

SFX: K K - HALT



I DON'T BELIEVE THIS IS A COINCIDENCE.
RATHER, *THEY* PLANTED EXPLOSIVES TO CAUSE A LANDSLIDE.
THAT'S AS FAR AS WE CAN GET BY CAR, THEN.
WE'VE GOT A LANDSLIDE ON OUR HANDS

SFX: BATAN GARA — STONES RATTLING AND FALLING

I BET *THEY* HOPE THAT BY THE TIME WE DUG OUR WAY THROUGH THIS ROAD-BLOCK, THE DAYTIME WILL HAVE RUN OUT.
LET'S CLIMB OVER IT, BUT DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN EVEN FOR A SECOND.

SFX SA - TAKES COVER

A&E
SOMETHING IS VERY OFF ABOUT THIS WHOLE SITUATION.
SHE'S GOT A HOLE IN THE HEAD!
HEY, LOOK!
SFX GARA – STONES RATTLING
'S OK, SHE WON'T BITE NO MORE.
NAW,
HEY! DON'T GET CLOSE TO HER SO CARELESSLY!!!
SHE GOTTA BE DEAD THEN!
ガラ
ガラ

SPIKE EACH - PUSH THE BUTTON

BOOM - EXPLOSION

WH—

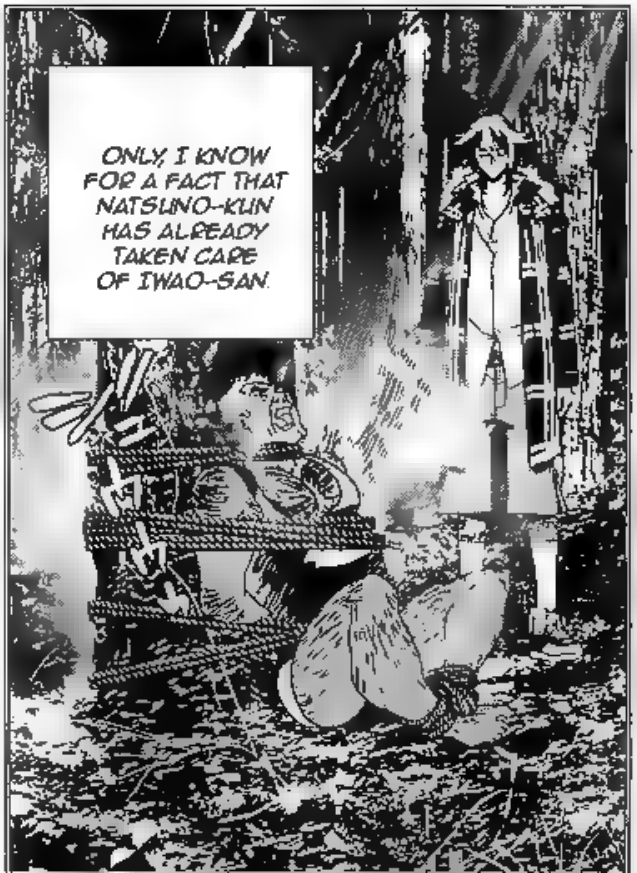
EVERYBODY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
UUH...

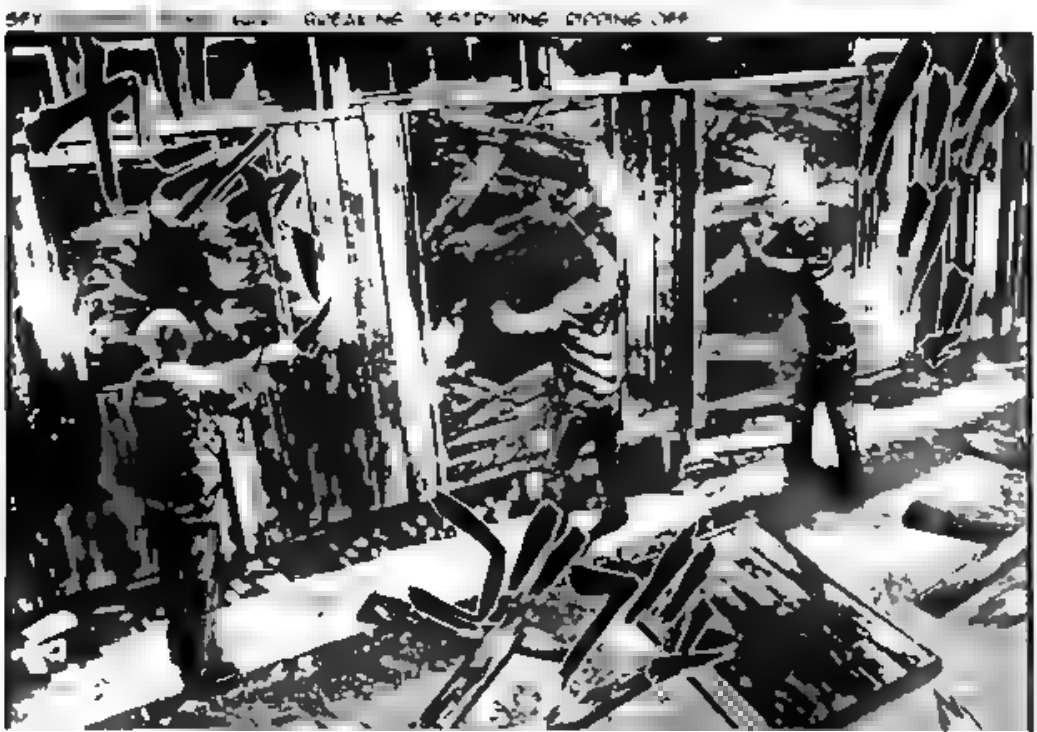
SFX: DA - DUN

A&E
IS HE ALIVE?
.....

A&E
WHAT NOW?
SHOULD WE WITHDRAW FOR NOW?

SFX: GA – APPEARING





AND SO, THE MASSACRE IN YAMAIRI HAD STARTED.

WHADDA HECK IS THAT?
!?
SFX BAN K.CK

LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT HOUSE.
YEAH, LET'S, I GUESS.
A ROOM FOR DOLLS?
A&E
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ANYBODY'S HIDING IN HERE...
SFX SHUU - SIZZLE
SFX UUU - SIZZLING
!?
SFX. UUU - SIZZLING

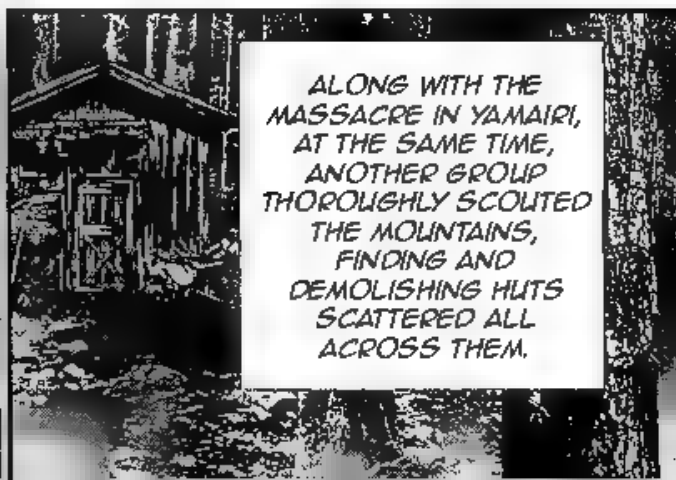
SFX: JUU - SIZZLING

SFX: ZAWA - TALKS AND NOISE

SFX: DOSU - HEAVY FOOTSTEPS

SFX: JHH SZZZ

SFX: BAN BASHING THE DOOR IN

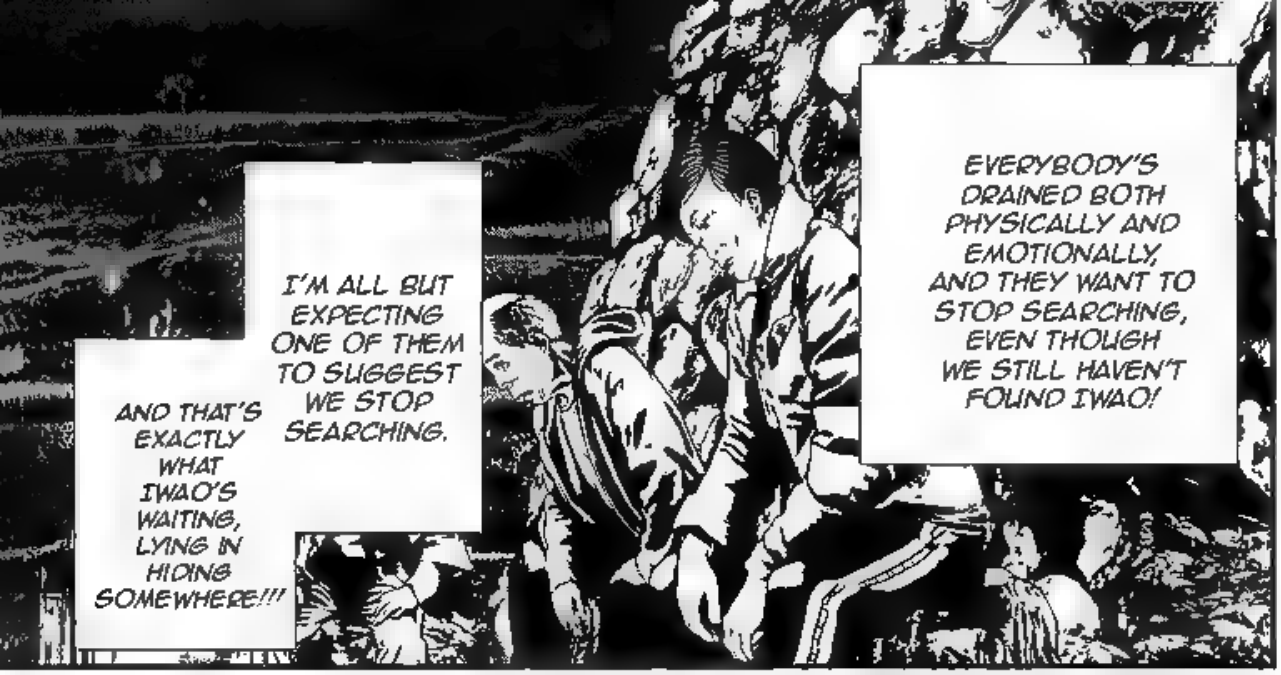

ALONG WITH THE MASSACRE IN YAMAIRI, AT THE SAME TIME, ANOTHER GROUP THOROUGHLY SCOUTED THE MOUNTAINS, FINDING AND DEMOLISHING HUTS SCATTERED ALL ACROSS THEM.

SFX. GUI - POKE

SFX. JUU SIZZLE

SFX PACHI - FIRE CRACKLES

AND WE MADE LOTSA HOLES IN CEILINGS AND FLOORS TO LET SUNLIGHT IN SO THAT *THEY* COULDN'T HIDE IN THE HOUSES ANYMORE.
BUT IT'S ALMOST OVER, ANYWAY.


EVERYBODY'S DRAINED BOTH PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY, AND THEY WANT TO STOP SEARCHING, EVEN THOUGH WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND IWAO!
I'M ALL BUT EXPECTING ONE OF THEM TO SUGGEST WE STOP SEARCHING.
AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IWAO'S WAITING, LYING IN HIDING SOMEWHERE!!!

I WON'T LET HIM HAVE IT!!!

シュ

SFX: SHU - OMEN

EVEN THOUGH SUNAKO FINALLY TOLD US TO RUN AWAY...

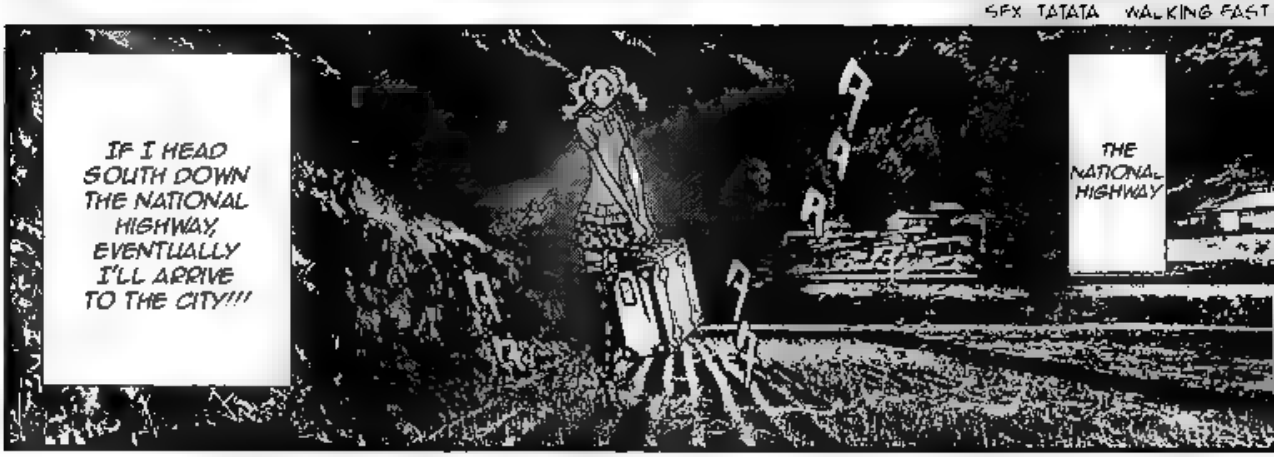
MAJORITY OF SHIKI HAD NO IDEA WHERE THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO ESCAPE TO AND ENDED UP STAYING IN YAMAIRI.

SFX: TA - WALKING

SFX TATATA - RUNNING

I'M GONNA--
--LEAVE THIS VILLAGE!!!

SFX TATATA WALKING FAST



AND FINDING A COVER FROM THE SUN ISN'T THAT BIG OF A PROBLEM, ANYWAY.
I'LL JUST PUT ON A FULLBODY TRACKSUIT, FIND A SUITABLY DARK PLACE IN THE MOUNTAINS, DIG A HOLE AND BURRY MYSELF IN IT FOR THE DAY.

I'M SURE THAT WAS HOW SUNAKO MANAGED TO SURVIVE IN THE BEGINNING, EVEN IF IT'S KIND OF PATHETIC.

YES! I'M GONNA BECOME SUNAKO THE SECOND!

I ALWAYS LOOKED DOWN DISDAINFULLY AT GIRLS FLOCKING TO BIG CITIES ONLY TO END UP FALLING AND LIVING UNSIGHTLY LIVES.

BUT NOW I FINALLY REALIZE THAT ANY END IS BETTER THAN THE ONE AWAITING ME IN THIS GOD FORSAKEN VILLAGE.

NO WAY I LET IT ALL END LIKE THIS!

I'LL LEAVE THIS VILLAGE! I SHOULD'VE DONE THAT AGES AGO!!!

I DON'T WANT TO DIE!

I DON'T WANT MY LIFE TO END IN THIS LAME VILLAGE, WHERE I'VE BEEN LOCKED UP SINCE THE DAY I WAS BORN!

Ahahaha!

What are you, an idiot or something?

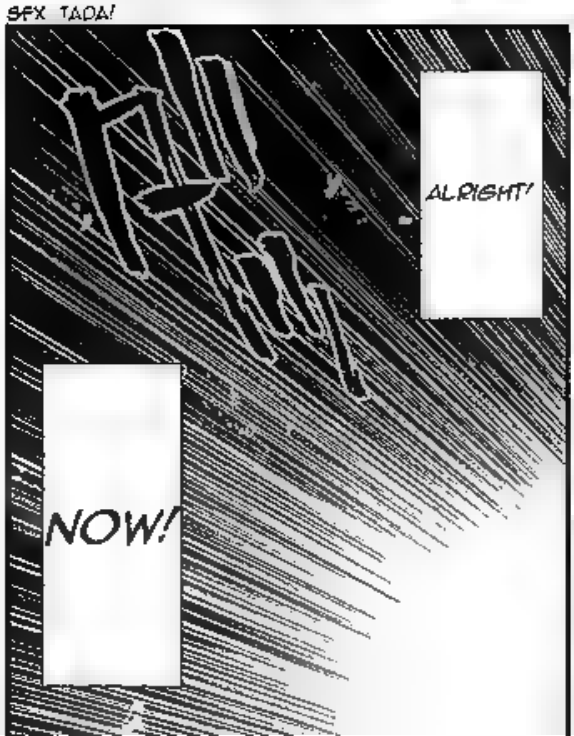
SOMEWHERE – IN THE CITY, MOST LIKELY – GIRLS MY AGE LIVE FUN HAPPY LIVES, ALWAYS HAVING A BALL!

SFX: TATA... PLNN NG

SFX ZORO WALKING IN A GROUP

SFX TADA!

SFX ZORO WALKING IN A GROUP

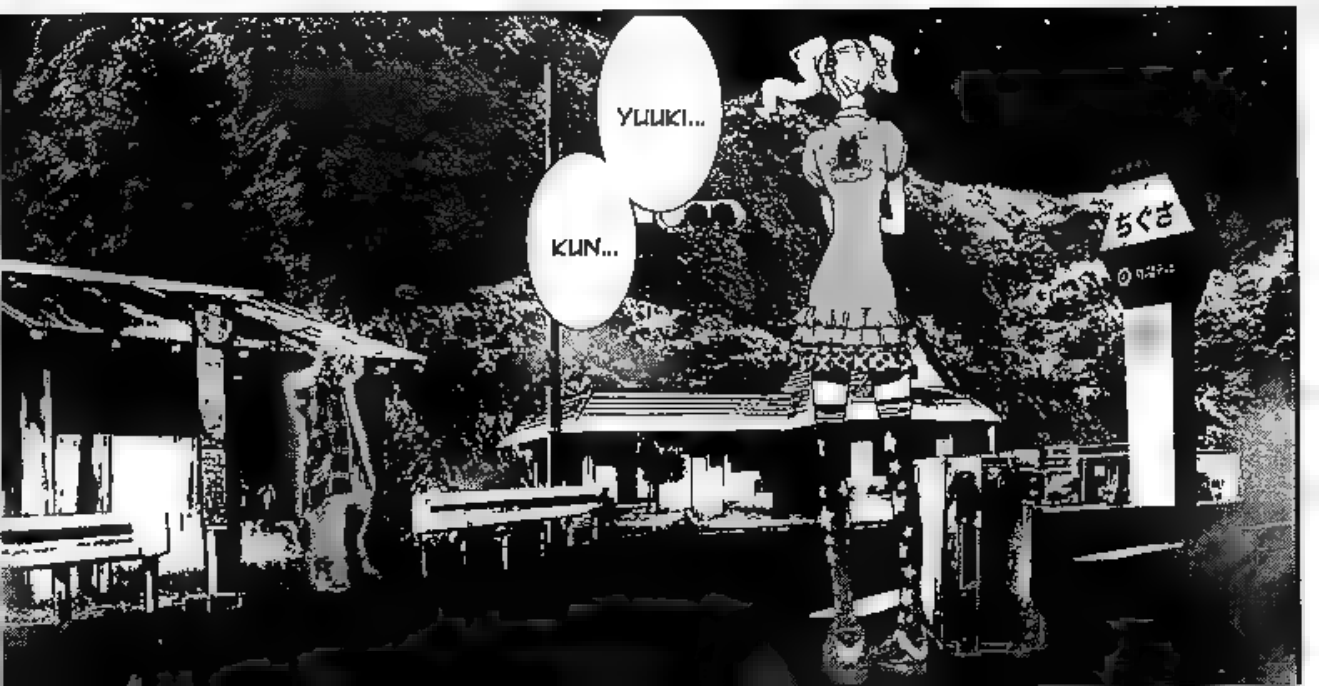


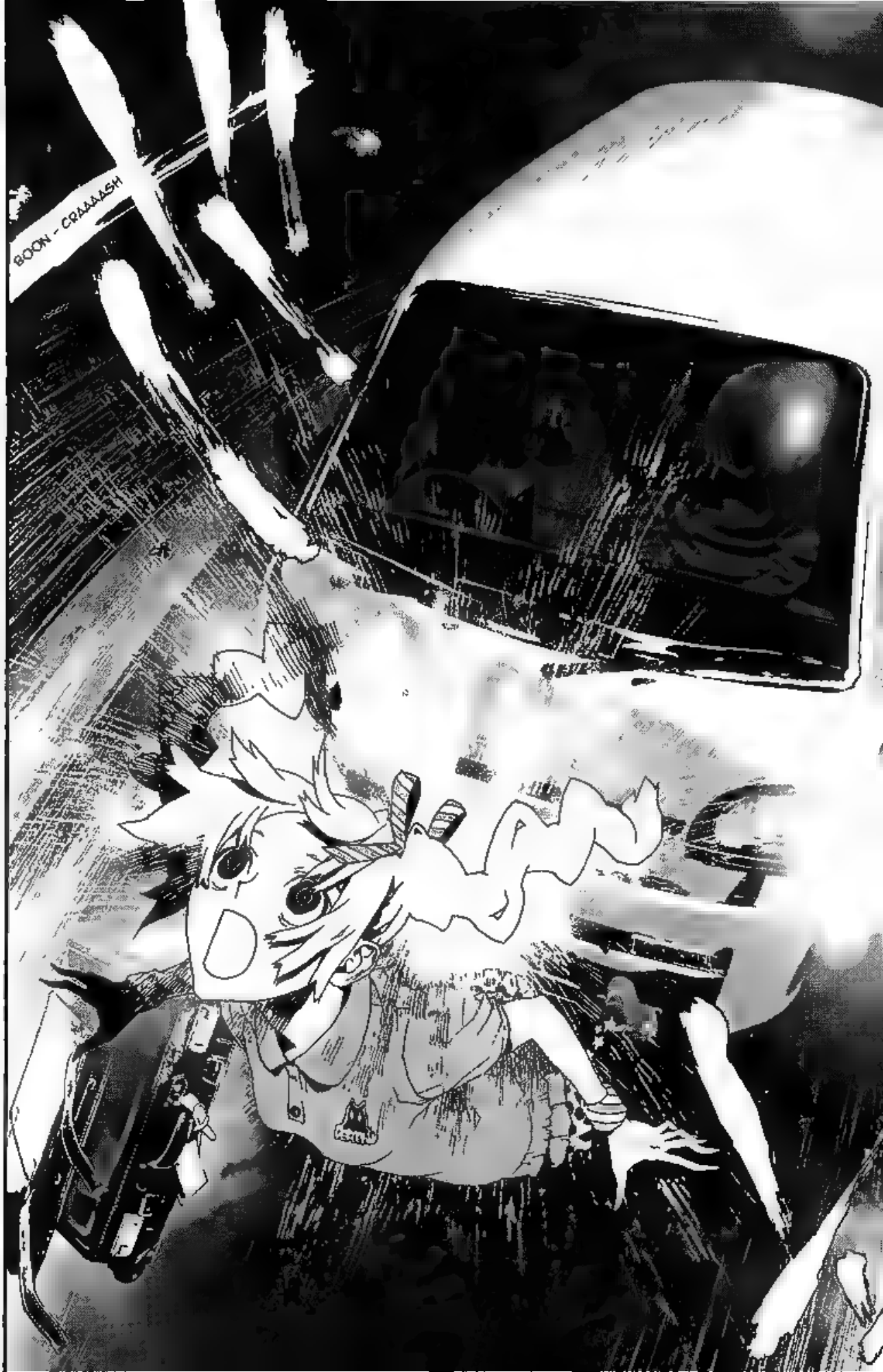
SHIMIZU.

SIGN CHIGUSA

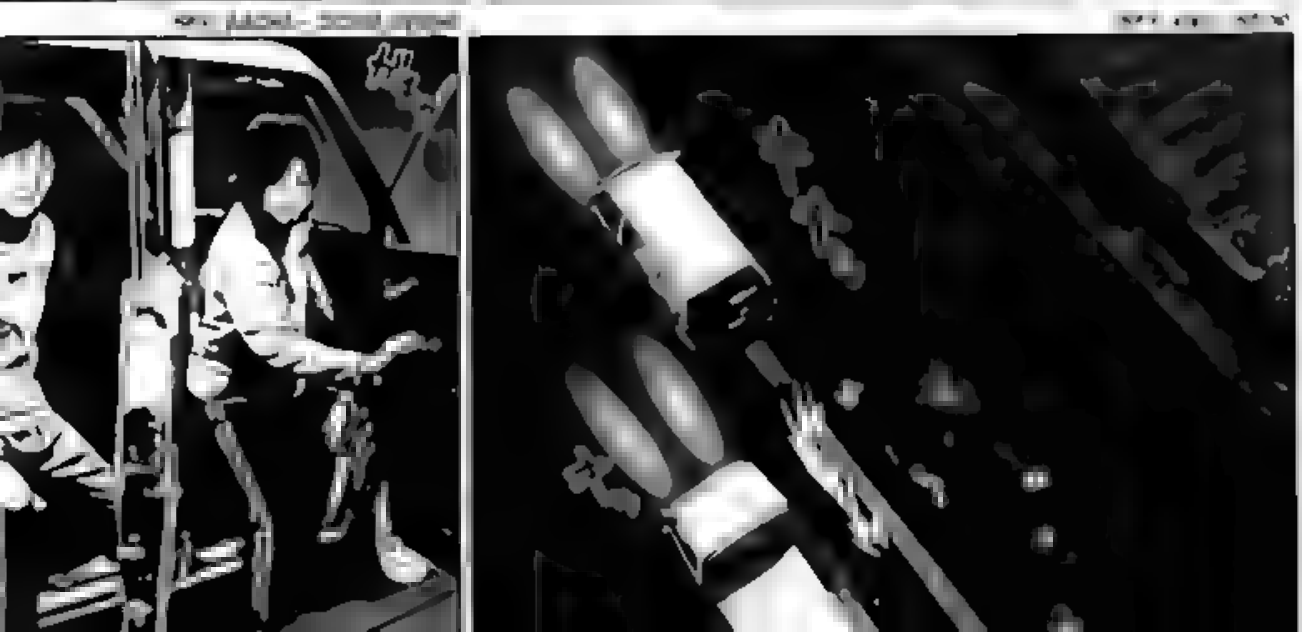
SFX: DOSA – THUD

SIGN: BUS STOP SOTOBA

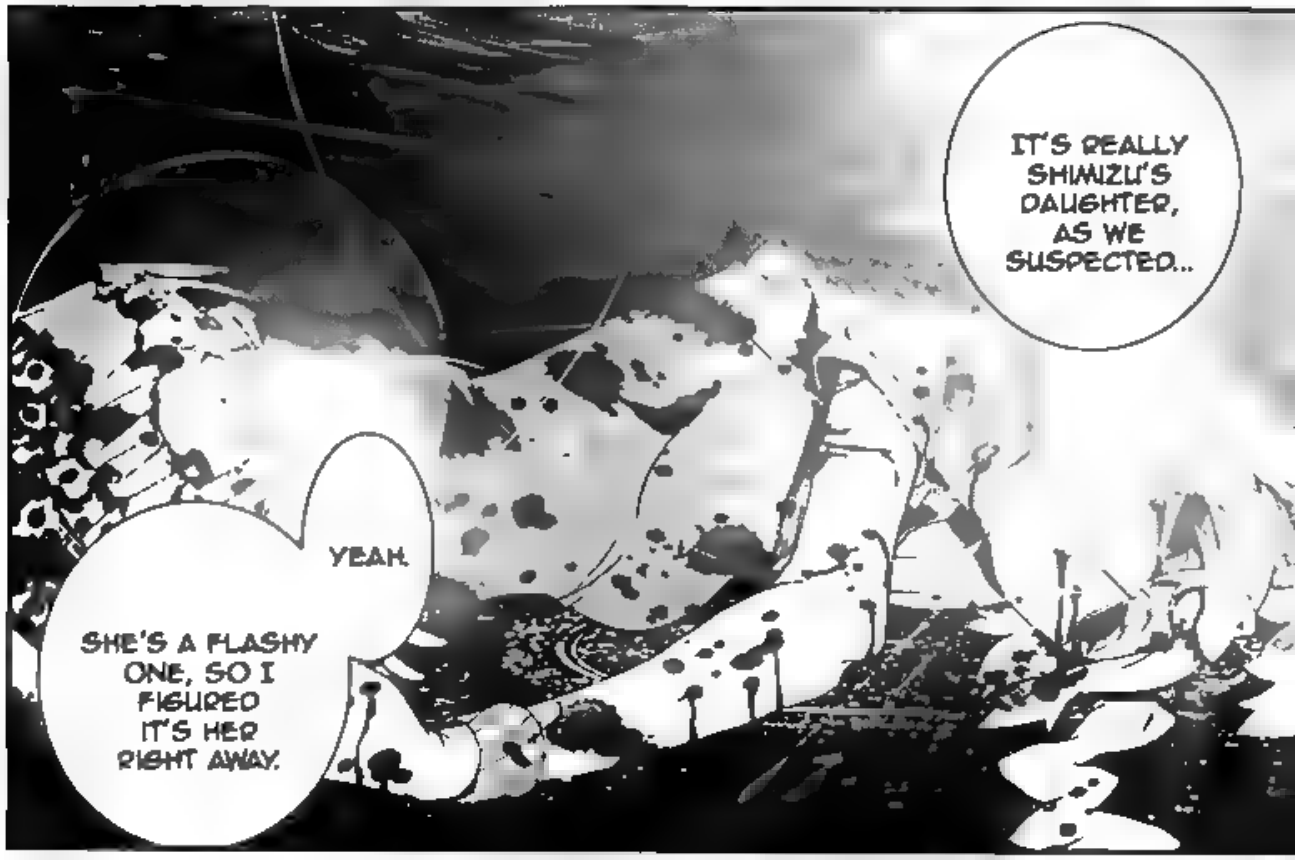


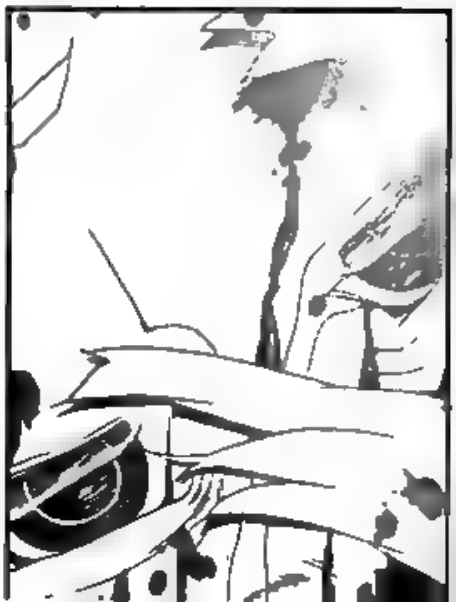

BOOM - CRAAAASH

GHU
GHA
GHA
GHA
メ゛ッ!!



SFX: KACHI - SWITCHING ON THE FLASHLIGHT

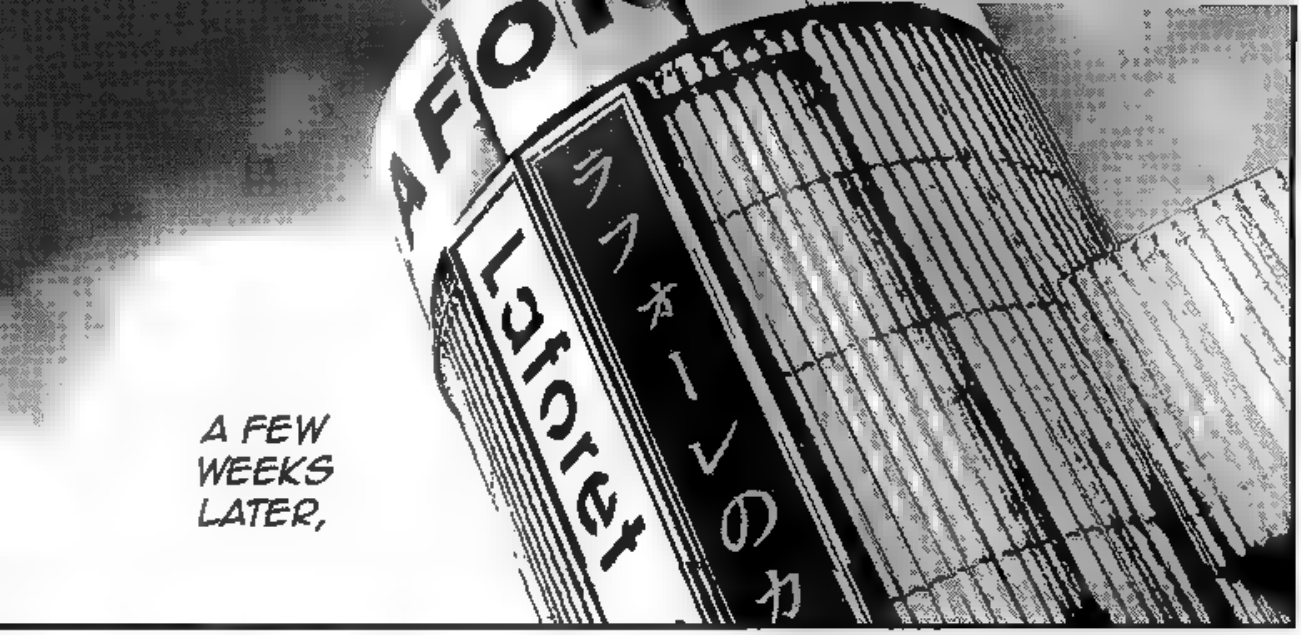




SFX PYO! - PICKING UP HER THINGS
ヒョイ
ヒョイ
DRAG HER OUT FROM UNDER THERE AND FINISH HER OFF, QUICK...
WE'LL BE IN A BUNCH OF TROUBLE, IF SOME OUTSIDER'S CAR WERE TO PASS HERE WHILE WE'RE DOING THIS.
ズル...
DON'T TOUCH ME!!!
SFX ZURU MOVE
SFX GYO - SHOCK

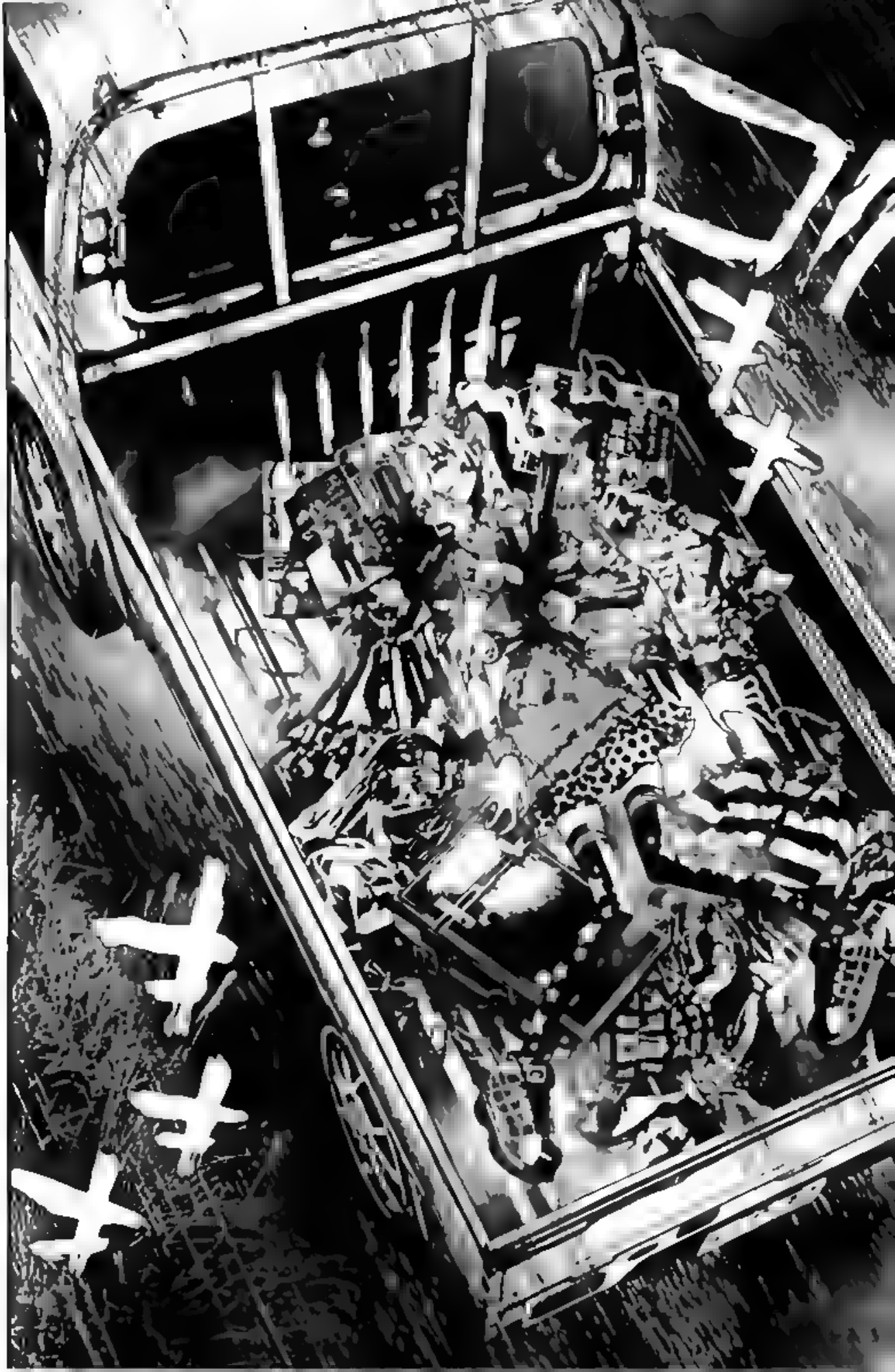
SFX: ZURU – STANDING UP SHAKILY

SFX: YOTA – WALKING SHAKILY



T/N: HARAJUKU - AN AREA BETWEEN SHINJUKU AND SHIBUYA (TOKYO), CONSIDERED A FASHION CAPITAL.

T/N: LAFORET - A DEPARTMENT STORE LOCATED IN HARAJUKU, KNOWN FOR ITS BIG SUMMER BARGAIN SALES AND CONSTANT REMODELLING OF THE BUILDING EXTERIOR.



SFX: OOO ENGINE ROAR

THE CURTAIN DOWN...
"SHE" BRINGS
HM?!
UH..
SFX GABA - JUMP
SFX MERA - BURNING
SFX PACHI - CRACKLING
UWAA!!!

Hot
Too Hot!!
HE'S ON FIRE!
OH NO! HE'S HEADING INTO THE WOODS!

OUCH, OUCH, OUCH!
HM?

!!!
AAAAAAAAA

Cough
IWAO! MEET YOUR END FOR YOU HAVE SINNED IN ARROGANCE!
I WON'T LET YOU ESCAPE YOUR PUNISHMENT! BURN WITH THE REST OF THE VILLAGE! DIE, YOU FREAK!!!

WHAT IS GOING ON?

WE NEED TO PUT THE FIRE OUT, FAST!!!

MOTOKO -SAN!!!

WAS IT YOU WHO STARTED THE FIRE?!

FLAMES ROAR

AAAA HAHA HAHA HAA!!!

屍鬼

JC①〜⑩巻まで発売中!!

The mountains look black against
the backdrop of navy blue darkness.
Their outlines are not still,
constantly moving, changing their shape.
It's the tops of fir trees that cover the mountains
swaying in the strong wind.
If there were a fire to happen,
with the wind this strong and air this dry,
it would bring forth a calamity.

Original Story by
原作／小野 不由美

Manga by Fuchi
漫画／藤崎 竜

Chapter 40

Yuuki Natsuno, part 16:
Mourning, Skulls and Anguish

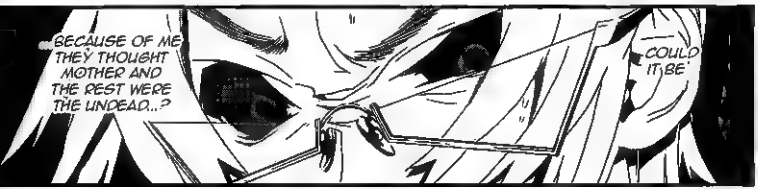
SFX: SU BREATHING

ドドド

SFX YURA NABBLE

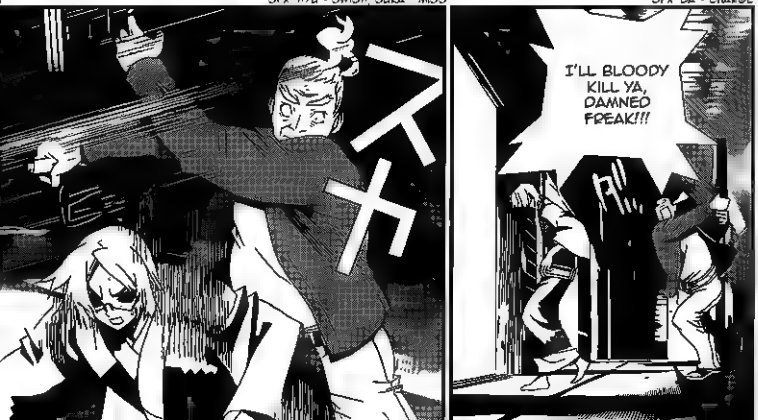
OOSU - STAB

SFX BUSHL - SPLATTER



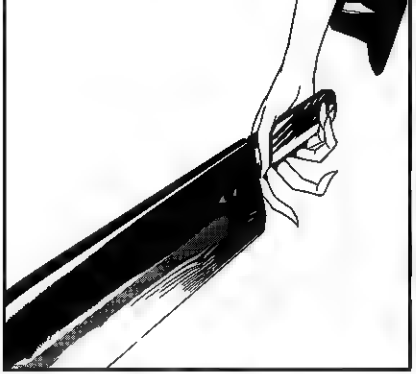
SFX HYL - SWISH, SLKA - MISS

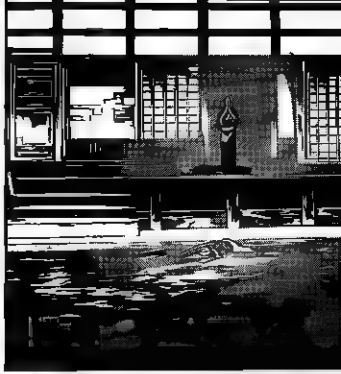
SFX DA - CHARGE



フォン
HUH?
SFX: PUWAN - FLYING
SFX: GA STUMBLE
SFX: DOSA - THUMP
SFX: HO - SIGH OF RELIEF
SFX: PIKU - TWITCH
UUH
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
AAH...

MOTHER...
WA KO
AND MITSUO-SAN TOO
PROBABLY KATSUE-SAN GOT KILLED AS WELL...





I HAVE TO GO NOW.
MOTHER.

I'M LEFT WITH NO CHOICE BUT, ENTER THE MOUNTAINS THEN
THEY RENDERED THE CAR UNUSABLE

SFX: BOTA - DRIP DRIP

HEY, ARE YOU OK?!
IF I MAKE IT TO YAMA-O, THEN I MIGHT BE ABLE TO--
"THERE'S A NARROW WOODTRAIL LEADING TO YAMA-O STARTING BEHIND THE TEMPLE."

THE TEMPLE IS SURROUNDED BY IMPENETRABLE WOODS.
I CAN NAVIGATE THEM, BUT THE VILLAGERS SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO!

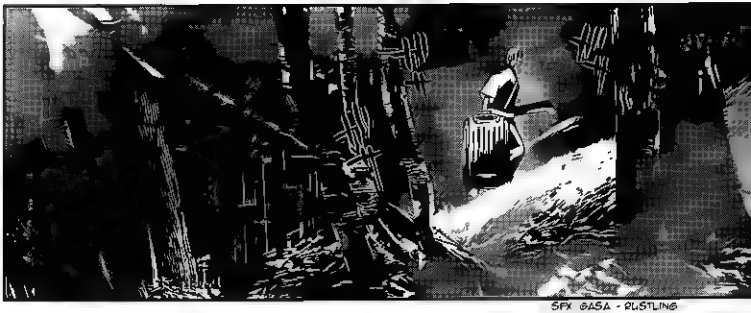
SHIT! HE HAD TO SHOW UP RIGHT WHEN WE WERE SEARCHIN' THE BACK ROOMS!
WHAAT?! THE YOUNG PRIEST WAS HERE, YOU SAY?!

THE BLOOD TRAIL CONTINUES FARTHER DOWN!
OOKAWA -SAN, COME HERE!
I'M IN BIG TROUBLE!

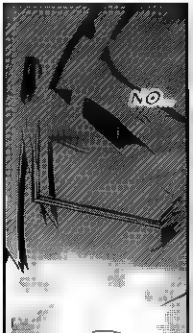
HM?

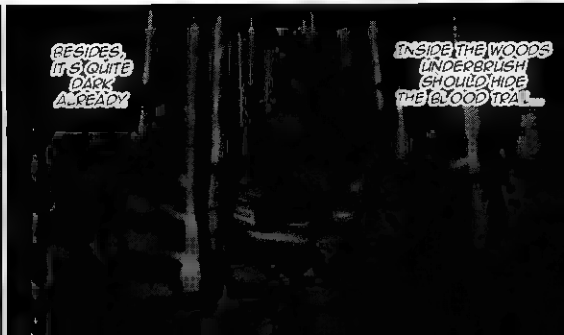
SFX: BOTA - DRIP DRIP

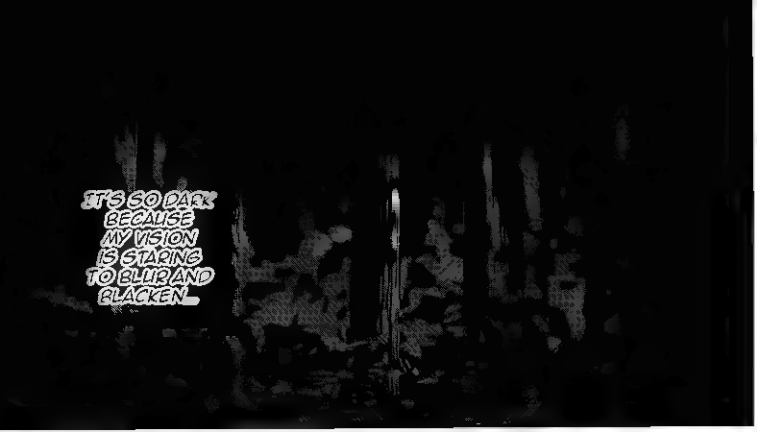
SFX: GUI - GRAB



SFX: SASA - RUSTLING

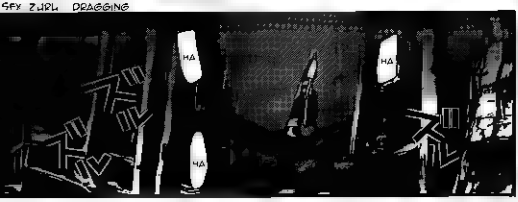




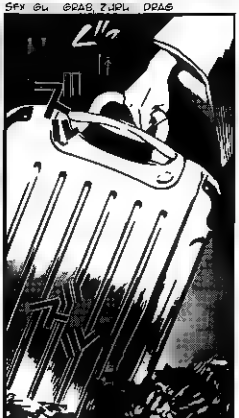


SFX DOSA THUMP

SFX ZURU DRAGGING



SFX GU GRAB, ZURU DRAG



I DON'T HEAR THE VOICES OF MY PURSUERS...

AT LEAST...

SFX GASA RUSTLE

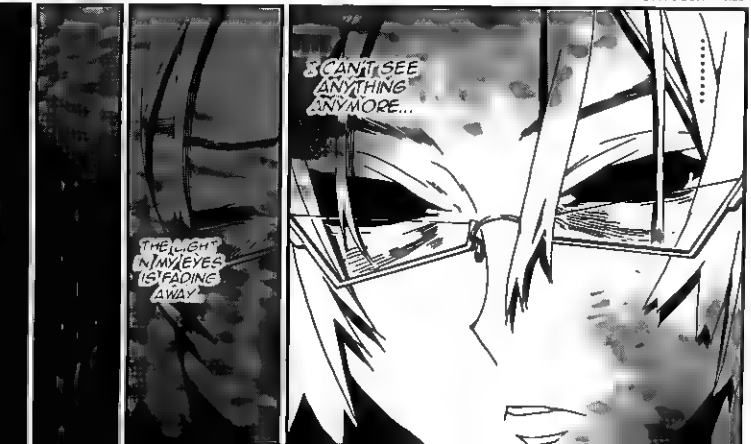
SFX DOSA THUD

SFX PACHI - UNCLASP

WHEN YOU WAKE UP, ESCAPE WITHOUT ME.
SUNA-KO...
SFX: KUDU TURN AROUND

I NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT WHEN MY PURSUERS CATCH UP WITH ME, THEY WON'T FIND THE TRUNK BY MY SIDE
SFX: B TA DAN DAN

I NEED TO MOVE FARTHER AWAY FROM THIS SPOT
SFX: DOBA - THUD


THE LIGHT IN MY EYES IS FADING AWAY
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING ANYMORE...

SFX KIK
HALT
SFX GUROPO + ENGINE ROARING

YOUNG DOCTOR!
SADA-FUMI!
SFX GASHA - THROWING THE DOOR OPEN

A FIRE STARTED IN THE MOUN-TAINS!
A&E

.....
IT'S SCALE IS ENORMOUS THE NEIGHBORING TOWN IS BOUND TO SEND OUT THEIR FIRETRUCK HERE...
IF THEY DISCOVER WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, WE'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE!
WE NEED TO HURRY UP AND DISPOSE OF THE DEAD BODIES!

OH MY...!
IT'S ALL CAUSE OF THE ABNORMALLY DRY WEATHER THIS SUMMER
A FOREST FIRE THIS BIG MIGHT REACH EVEN THE VILLAGE...

ON THE ROCK HELLS HOLE

SFX: HYUU - WHIIIZ

SIGN: WATCH y OUR STEPS

SFX: 20... THROWING

.....
LET'S SPEED UP THEN!
WE WERE TOLD TO HURRY UP AND GET RID OF THEM FAST.
ONLY THE CORPSES OF HUMANS LEFT, AND THAT'S IT, RIGHT?
PHEW.
THIS VILLAGE IS DONE FOR.
DON'T YOU AGREE,
THE VILLAGERS ARE FRANTICLY RUNNING AROUND TRYING TO GET RID OF ALL THE TRACES OF THEIR SHIKI HUNT...
THE FOREST FIRE THAT HAS ORIGINATED IN YAMAMA IS SPREADING TOWARDS THE VILLAGE..

NATSUNO -KUN?

SO YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE TURMOIL AND GOT YOUR HANDS ON THIS THING, EH.
IT'S THAT POLICEMAN SASAKI'S GUN, ISN'T IT.

SFX: OOSHU - HIT, HIT, HIT
SFX: PAN BANG BANG, BANG
HMPH!
YOU'VE DONE A COMMENDABLE JOB SO FAR, BY THE WAY!
SFX: PAN BANG
HOW ABOUT YOU STOP AT THAT?
SFX: PAN - BANG
SAVED YOUR FRIENDS THE TANAKA SIBLINGS...
MANAGED TO THWART SUNAKO'S PLAN IN TANDEM WITH OZAKI...

SUCK- MAKING A SOAP
CLICK EMPTY
GA - SCAB
FUJISAN

SFX: SUSU - STRANSLING

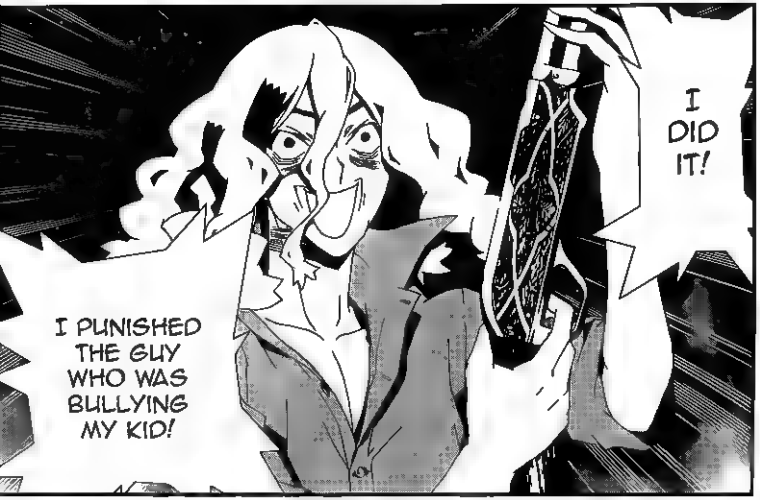
SFX: SURI... SWING

YOU MAY BE A WEREWOLF, BUT EVEN YOU WON'T SURVIVE A FALL FROM THIS HEIGHT.
SO, WHAT'S YOUR CHOICE?
IF YOU DON'T TAKE MY OFFER, I'LL JUST DROP YOU.

SFX: CHA - CHING

SFX GURA - LOSING BALANCE, PYL - WHOOSH

SFX: @AKH THUD



SFX: BOTA - DRIP DRIP

SFX: HOORAY! HOORAY!

FUJISA
SFX: SASHA - KA-CHING
GUI - YANK

DAD,
TAKE CARE.

YUUKI NATSU NOOO OOO!!!

SFX: AAAA!!!

!!
足下注意
SFX: HYU - WHOOSH

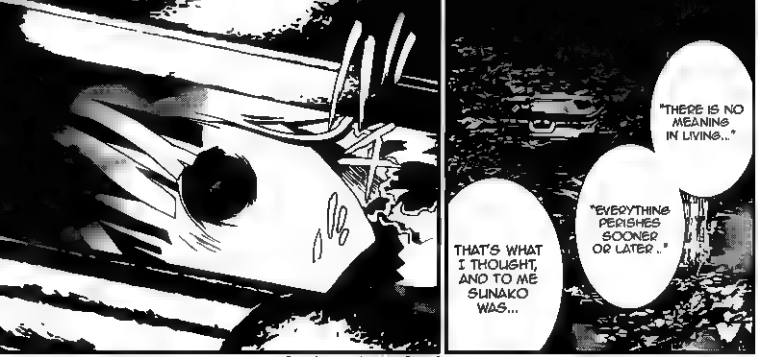
.....
DID YOU SEE SOMETHING FALL DOWN JUST NOW?

UNLIKE WITH SHIKI, LIGHT IS NO DANGER TO US, WEREWOLVES..
AND OUR PHYSICAL ABILITIES FAR EXCEED THEIRS TOO..
CLEARLY, AS A SPECIES, WE'RE SUPERIOR TO SHIKI.
.....
LET'S HAVE A HONEST CHAT HERE FOR A BIT.

...IS WEREWOLVES EXCLUSIVELY.
PROBABLY, THE ONLY CORRECT FORM OF THE SPECIES WE BELONG TO...

IN OTHER WORDS, SHIKI ARE JUST *FAILURES* WHO COULDN'T MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO BECOMING WEREWOLVES..
THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT YOU AND ME THAT ALLOWED US TO SUCCEED IN REBIRTH AS THE FLAWLESS WEREWOLVES
SHIKI LACKED IT AND FAILED, BECOMING JUST A BYPRODUCT OF THE WEREWOLF EVOLUTION.
.....

SFX. GOPO - GURGL NG


"THERE IS NO MEANING IN LIVING..."
"EVERYTHING PERISHES SOONER OR LATER..."
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, AND TO ME SUNAKO WAS...

...THE SYMBOL OF PERISH AND DESTRUCTION.

WHERE AM I...?
MOUNTAINS... BUT HOW I ENDED UP HERE...?

MUROI-SAN, WHERE ARE YOU?
MUROI -SAN!
!
THE SMELL OF BLOOD!
SFX: KYORO - LOOKING AROUND
THE SMELL OF BLOOD IS GETTING STRONGER...
THIS WAY.
MUROI -SAN!!!
Hua?

BUT HE'S WARM, SO WARM...
AND HE'S STILL BREATHING, IF FAINTLY... HE'S STILL ALIVE.
!
THIS WOUND... SO DEEP...
PLEASE! DO NOT DIE!
DO NOT LEAVE ME ALL ALONE!
IF HE'S TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL WITHOUT DELAY, HE STILL HAS CHANCES TO SURVIVE...
BUT I CAN'T POSSIBLY TAKE HIM THERE MYSELF, WITHOUT ANY HELP...

I HEARD A VOICE JUST NOW!!!
SFX. BIKU - SCARED
THEY CAN CARRY HIM TO THE HOS-PITAL!
SOME-BODY'S COM-ING!
SFX KURL TURN AROUND
A GIRL'S VOICE!
IT'S HER!
SHE'S CLOSE!
EH?!
?

SFX 2A - GRASS RUSTLING

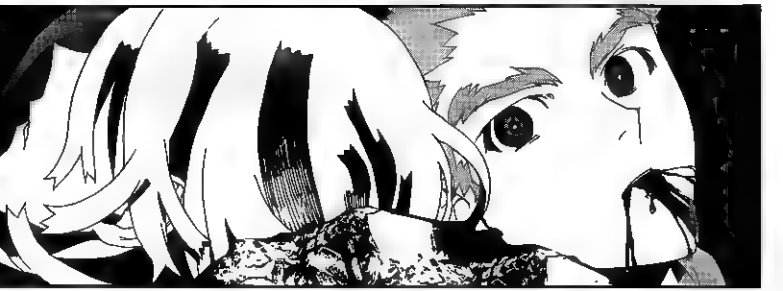
I'M A KILLER, YET I'M DESPERATELY TRYING TO HIDE IN THE BUSH FROM MY OWN DEATH.
YET I'M RUNNING FOR MY LIFE, CRAWLING UP THE SLOPE AND TUMBLING DOWN.

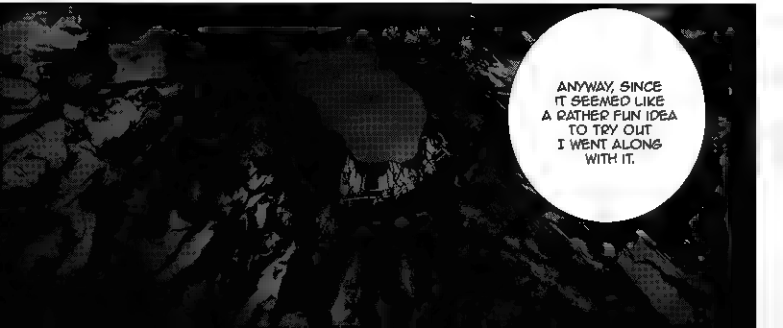
SFX 1A - RUNNING

SUNAKO IS BEAUTIFUL.
...SHE'S AN ANTISOCIAL ANTAGONIST.
IN THE WORLD DEFENDED BY JUSTICE, LAW AND ORDER...
ズーン
ズーン
SFX: ZUN -STOMPING
DUE TO THE BALANCE EXISITING IN NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS, THE NUMBER OF CARNIVORES CAN'T BE GREATER THAN THAT OF HERBIVORES.
THE SAME GOES FOR HUMANS AND SHIKI...
YET WHAT SUNAKO TRIED TO DO IN THIS VILLAGE IS GO AGAINST THAT PRINCIPLE.

THERE WAS NO WAY SHE'D HAVE SUCCEEDED.
BUT IT'S EXACTLY FOR THE REASON OF MY WAY OF THINKING BEING SO DOWN TO EARTH AND NIHILISTIC LIKE THAT THAT I FIND SUNAKO HIGHLY ENTERTAINING.
THIS FEELING IS PROBABLY UNFAMILIAR TO YOU, EH?
...

SFX: SOHO - COUGHING PUFU - CHUCKLING



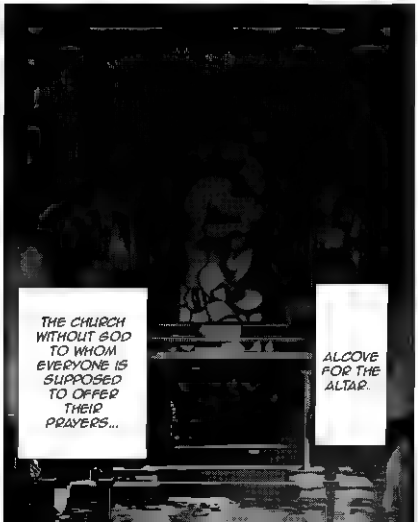


YOU KNOW, I...
WANTED TO BECOME A MAN WHO DIED FOR THE SECOND TIME FROM THE END OF THE WORLD...
IF HUMANS WERE TO GET ERADICATED, SHIKI WOULD PERISH TOO.
AND THE WORLD WOULD MEET ITS END AS WELL.
I WANTED TO WITNESS IT...
I REALLY WANTED... TO SEE WITH MY OWN EYES THE WORLD FALLING TO PIECES AND DISAPPEARING WITHOUT A TRACE, AND THEN DIE AS THE LAST MAN...
I WHO WAS IMMERSED IN DESPAIR SO DEEP THAT I WANTED TO DIE
WAS ABLE TO LIVE THAT LONG ONLY DUE TO HER.
I REALLY HAD A LOT OF FUN BEING BY SUNAKO'S SIDE...
MIGHT AS WELL ADMIT THAT MUCH IN THESE FINAL MOMENTS....

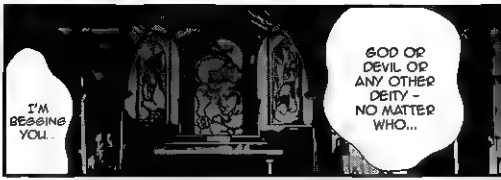
SFX: GO - FLAMES ROARING
!
WHICH WAY SHOULD I GO?
WHICH SIDE OF THE MOUNTAINS IS THIS FOREST ON?
MUROI-SAN'S CHURCH!
THIS IS...

SFX KII CREAK

SFX GA - THUD



SFX: JA - APPEARS SUDDENLY



NEXT TIME: THE MASK CHAPTER...

WHY DO YOU HATE ME SO?

TBC

SFX: GOO FLAMES ROARING

HIDE THE DEAD BODIES THAT'RE LEFT IN THE VILLAGE! HURRY UP!
NO! IN THE WORST CASE THE FIRE WILL LEAP TO THE VILLAGE!!!
WE GOTTA EVACUATE WOMEN AND CHILDREN BEFORE ANYTHING!!!
WE NEED TO PUT OUT THE FIRE FAST!
OR A FIRETRACK FROM THE NEXT TOWN WILL BE HERE SOON!
CHOP DOWN TREES TO STOP THE FIRE FROM SPREADING FARTHER!

SFX: WA – COMMOTION
KASHA – LIGHTING UP

SFX: POTA POTA PLOPPING DOWN

TURNS OUT THAT IT'S PROBABLY MY DEFEAT,
AFTER ALL...
.....

SFX: FUU – PUFF

THE OUTCOME OF ALL THIS HAS TO BE EITHER VICTORY OR DEFEAT?
WHO EXACTLY YOU ANTA-GONIZED THEN?
.....?

WELL, I MYSELF WONDER
WHO EXACTLY...

With fire on the loose, everything is buried in oblivion within hellish flames.
The village is destroyed, and the villagers scatter all across the country.
There are still corpses left, but if the villagers keep their mouths sealed, no outsider will ever be able to guess just what transpired here...
THE LAST PART
Original Story by Ono Fuyumi Manga by Fujisaki Ryuu
Chapter 41 (final)

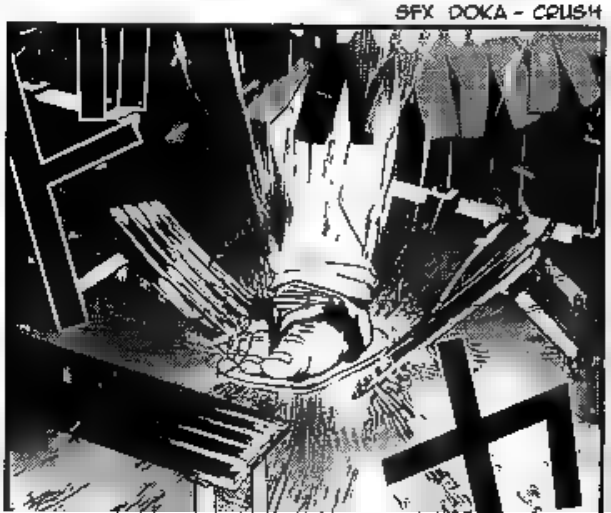
SFX KASA - RUSTLE

SFX DOKA - KICK

SFX: DOSA - FALL
SFX ZUN STOMP
SFX BAN CRUSH
FOUND YA, DAMN BRAT!

SFX DA - RUNNING

SFX DOKA - CRUSH

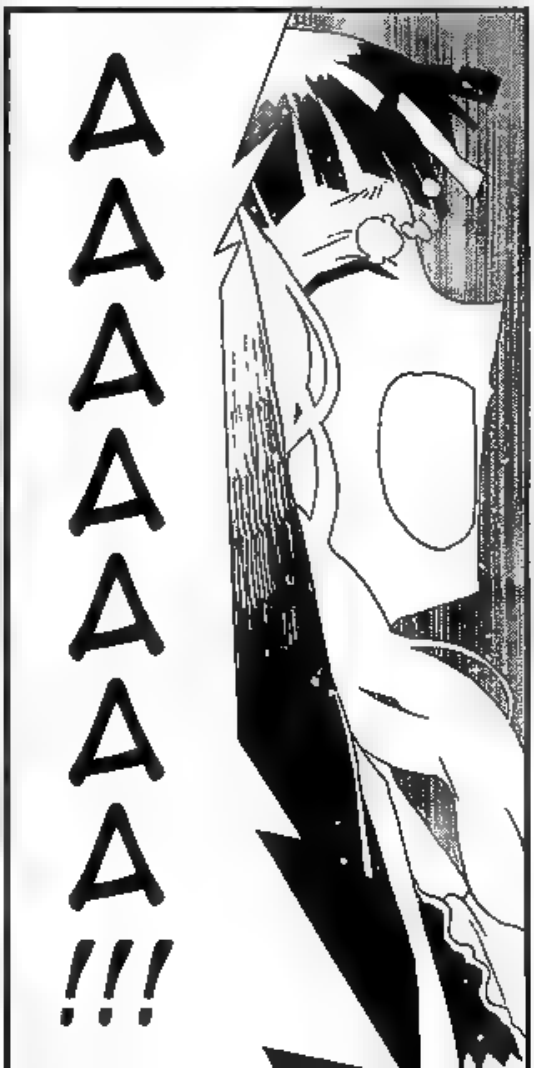


SHE DESERVES TO FEEL TERROR FIRST HAND FOR ONCE!
IT'S ONLY WHEN THEY CAN EMPATHIZE
NNN AW TAKE COVE SOMEONE ELSE
WHAT BLISS!
SIGHT ALLY CONS STHOW MA VILLAGERS THAT SAME

SFX BAK CRACKLE
SFX: GARA - COLLAPSING
!!!
SFX BAN CRUSH
SFX GA GRAB

SFX: BLGA - STAB

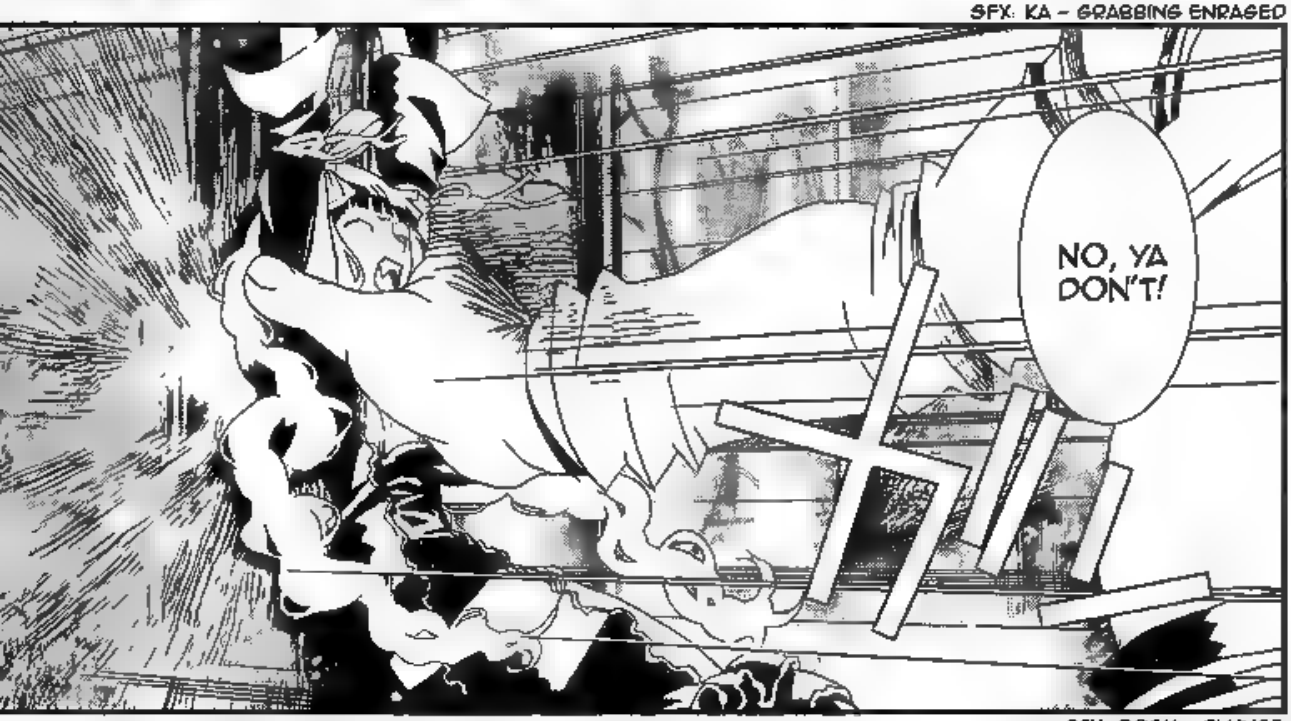
SFX: BATA - FLAILING



PLEASE, STOP!
I'M BEGGING YOU!
NOT STAKES, PLEASE!!!
SFX: HIYO - BREAKING OFF
SCARED OF THIS, YEAH?
HOHOHO, SCARED, AIN'T YA?
HOHO HOHO HOO.
SFX: JAK - FANGS EXTENDING
HOHO HOOO HOO!

SFX: GUAAAA!

SFX: KA – GRABBING ENRAGED



SFX DOSU – PLUNGE

DON'T YA TRY TO RESIST!
!!!
IT'S SUCH FUN WHEN THE PRAY RESISTS!
IT'S SO ENJOYABLE TO CRUSH IT UNDERFOOT AS IT EXHAUSTS ITS RESERVES, MAKIN' FUTILE ATTEMPTS AT RUNNIN' AWAY.
I CAN'T STOP GRINNIN THINKIN THAT THIS MURDERER IS ABOUT TO GET IT HERSELF!
SFX: DOSHU - STAB
KHU...
BUT AS A HUMAN, I CAN BE MERCIFUL, YA KNOW!
YER SCARED AND I PITY YA.
HOW 'BOUT THESE STAKES? THEY'RE SMALLER, SO IT AIN'T THAT SCARY, YEAH?

BHAA HAHA HAHA HAA!

Ahahaha!
OH, I KNOW!
HOW 'BOUT I CALL HERE MEMBERS OF ALL THE FAMILIES WHOSE RELATIVES YOU MURDERED?
AN' EVERY LAST ONE OF 'EM WILL DRIVE A TINY STAKE INTO YA!
THAT WAY EVERYBODY GONNA GET THEIR WELL-DESERVED SATISFACTION TOO!

THE INHUMAN MONSTER BEFORE ME AIN'T NO CHILD THAT NEEDS TO BE PITIED.

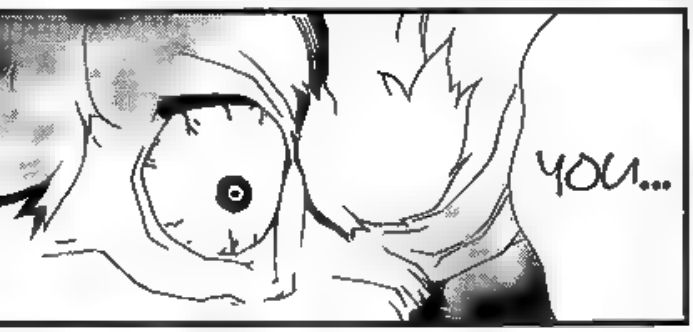
THIS IS JUSTICE!

IT AIN'T NO ATROCIOUS OR BRUTAL. THERE AIN'T NO PLACE FOR PITY HERE.

!!!
YER COMPLETELY AT MY MERCY NOW.
SFX ZU - PIERCE
SFX ZU - PIERCE
I'M-A BE KILLIN' YA TILL YA CAN'T SCREAM ANYMORE!
SFX: SURU - FLOW
SFX: GO - HIT
THE CEILING'S CRUMBLIN' ALREADY?
MM...?
HM?

SFX: PUSHU – BLOOD SPURT

SFX SHUTA - WOOSH

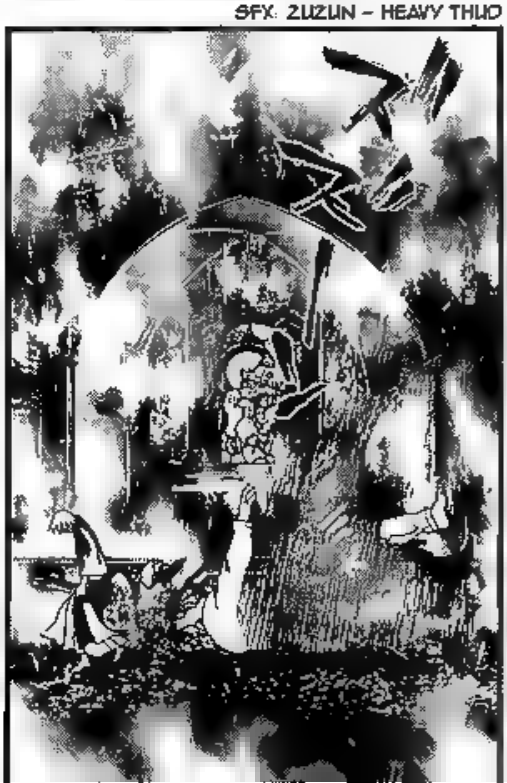


SFX. HIN - SWISH

MUROI
-SAN...

SFX. BUN – CHOP

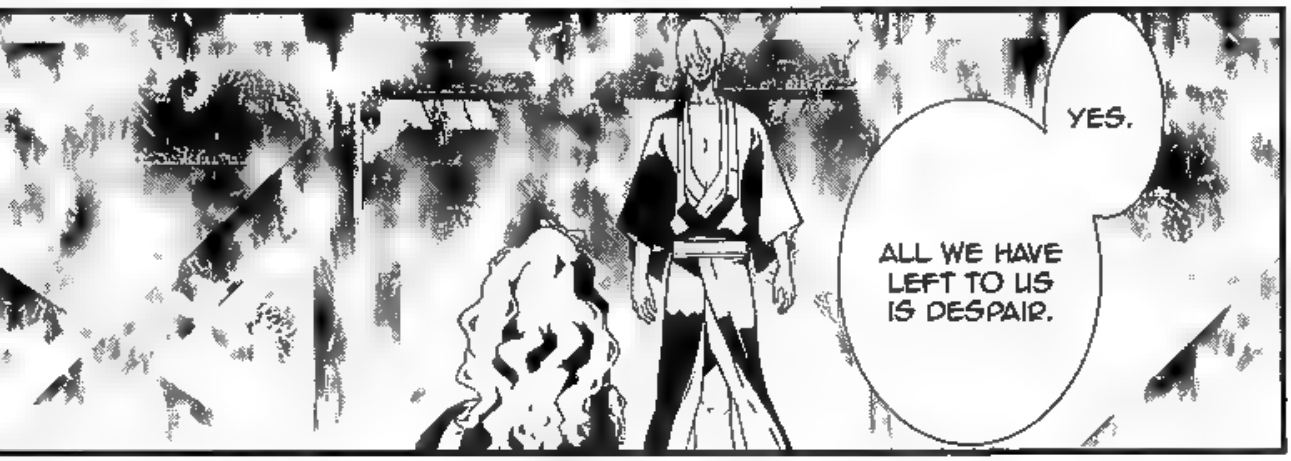
SFX: ZUZUN – HEAVY THUD



SFX PAK - CRACKLE
GET UP, SUNAKO.
IF WE DON'T HURRY UP, WE'LL END UP SWALLOWED BY THE FIRE.
SFX PAKI - CRACKLE
SFX GOO - FLAMES ROARING
I WON'T RUN AWAY.
AND YOU SHOULD STAY HERE, TOO, MUROI-SAN.

MUROI-SAN, YOUR BLOOD...
THE SCENT OF YOUR BLOOD IS CHANGING.
SFX POTA - DRIP-DROP
I WANT MY EXISTENCE TO BE OVER.
I FINALLY MUSTERED UP THE NECESSARY RESOLVE.
AT LAST I CAN THROW MY EXISTENCE AWAY.
HOWEVER, IF YOU WILL STILL BE LEFT IN THIS WORLD, THAT MEANS MY SINS AREN'T ERASED.
THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING YOU TO STAY HERE WITH ME AND LET THE FIRE FINALLY CLEANSE EVERYTHING AWAY.
YOU BEAR NO SINS.

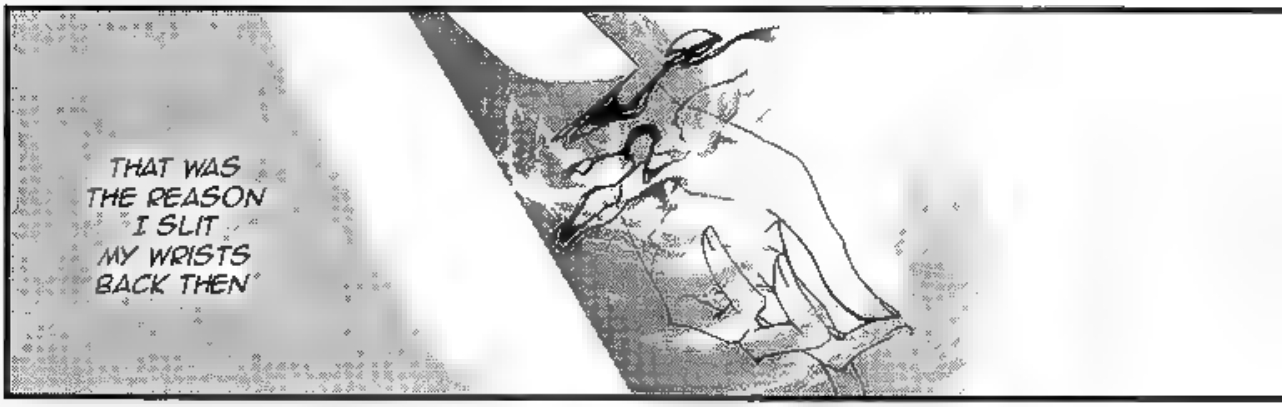
THAT'S EVEN CRUELER, THEN, MUROI-SAN.
MURDER IS A SIN BELONGING TO THE WORLD OF HUMANS.
YOU ARE NO HUMAN, THUS, HUMAN NOTIONS SUCH AS SIN OR PUNISHMENT FOR ONE'S SINS ARE NOT APPLICABLE TO YOU.
EH?!


YES.
ALL WE HAVE LEFT TO US IS DESPAIR.

HAVING BEEN EXILED FROM THE HUMAN WORLD, WE CAN ONLY KEEP WALKING ACROSS THE ENDLESS DARK WASTELAND.

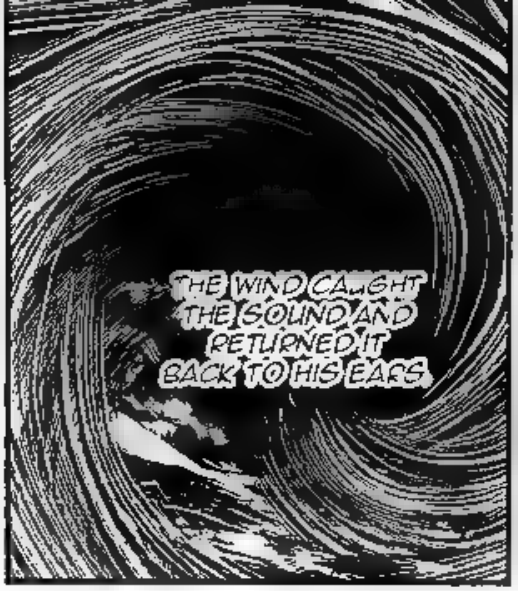
DESPAIR...

...YES, IT WAS DESPAIR.



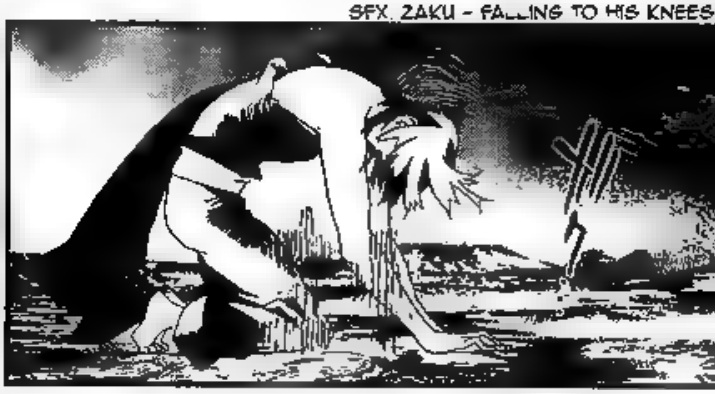
SFX Su DISAPPEARING

AT LAST ABEL DISAP-PEARED.



THE NAME
HE WAS SCREAMING
WAS HIS OWN.

SFX. ZAKU - FALLING TO HIS KNEES

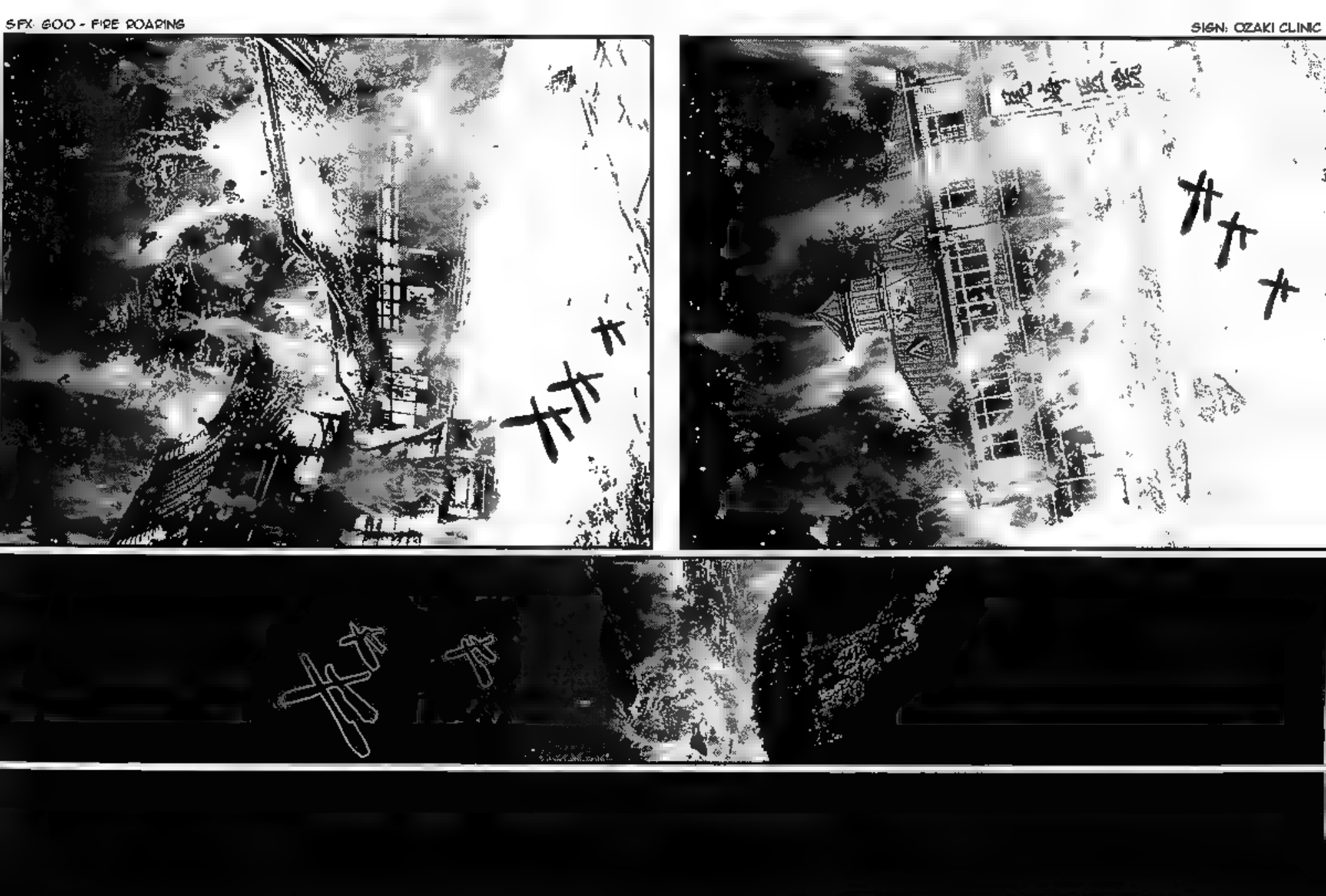


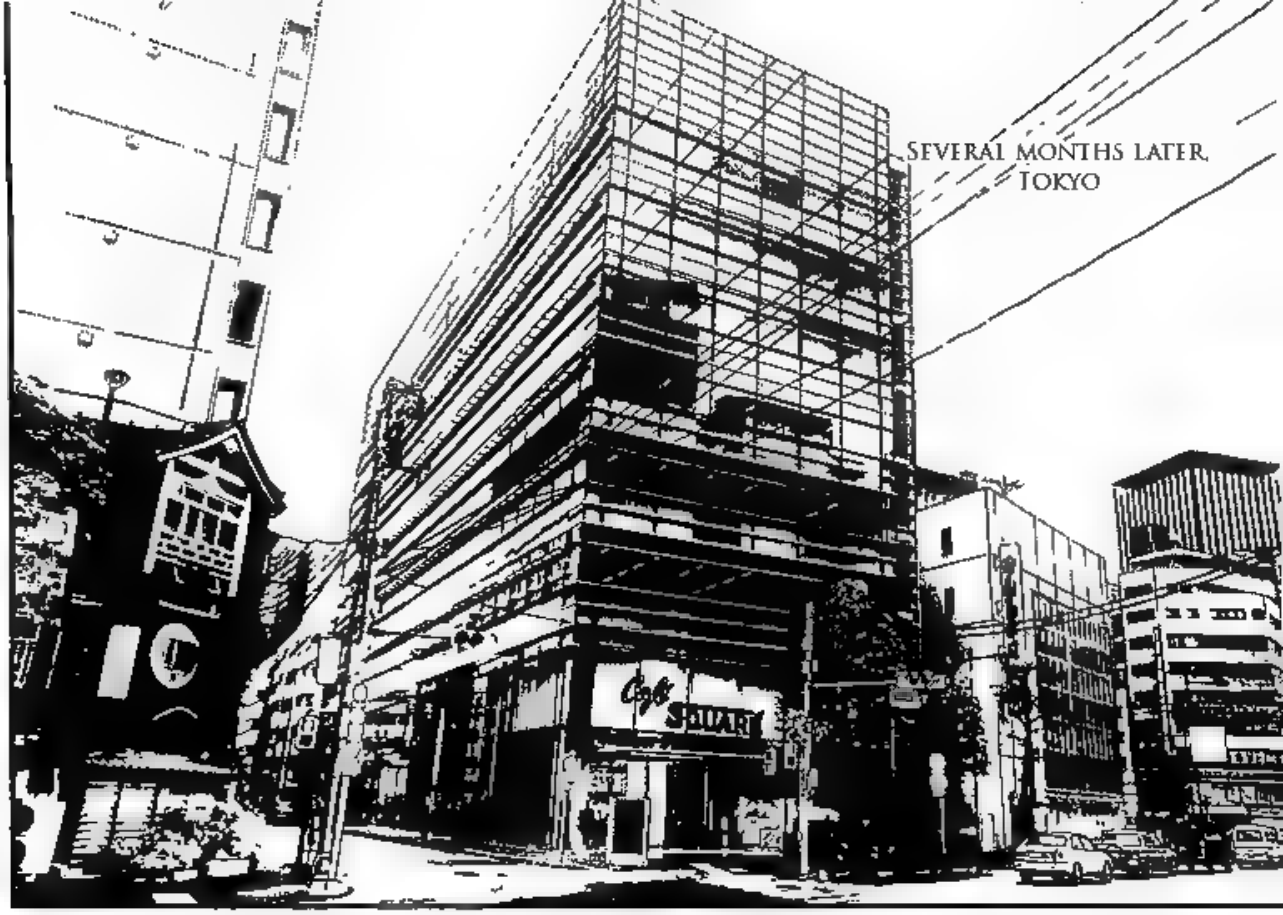
THE ME THAT WAS LOVED BY EVERYONE AND BY THE WORLD I USED TO LIVE IN.

YES... HE HAD NO BROTHER. THE YOUNGER BROTHER WAS SIMPLY A PART OF HIS OWN SOUL...

SFX GOO – FLAMES ROARING

EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO KEEP LIVING.
LIVING JUST FOR THE SAKE OF LIVING,
EMBRACING THE NOTHING-NESS INSIDE YOU ALL THE WHILE.


SFX: GOO - FIRE ROARING
SIGN: OZAKI CLINIC


SEVERAL MONTHS LATER,
TOKYO
Café SOWAN

I REALLY WANT TO INTERVIEW THAT MUROI SEISHIN-SAN.

Café SOWAN
AS I KEEP TELLING YOU

ペラペラ
GEEZ, WHAT A CHATTY FELLOW.
COULD YOU, PLEASE, CONTACT HIM AND ARRANGE A MEETING WITH HIM FOR ME?
NO WORRIES, I'M NEITHER A RIVAL WRITER NOR I WAS SENT BY SOME PUBLISHER!
SFX PERAPERA - FAST TALKING
SFX. FUU - SIGH
WELL,
I REALLY DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...
CITIZEN PROFILE NO.1
TSUBARA
WAS SEISHIN'S SENPAI AT UNIVERSITY, CURRENTLY WORKS AT A PUBLISHING COMPANY SEISHIN'S EDITOR IN CHARGE.
SFX GASA - RUMMAGING
SFX. HMMM...
HOW IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE, HM?
THEY ALL SAID THEY COULDN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM.
I TRIED ASKING AROUND, BUT NO ONE TOLD ME ANYTHING.
WHY DOES EVERYBODY INSIST ON KEEPING HIS WHEREABOUTS A SECRET, I WONDER?
...ナ

SFX: DOSA – THUD

ON THE BOOK: SHIKI BY MIYOI SEISHIN

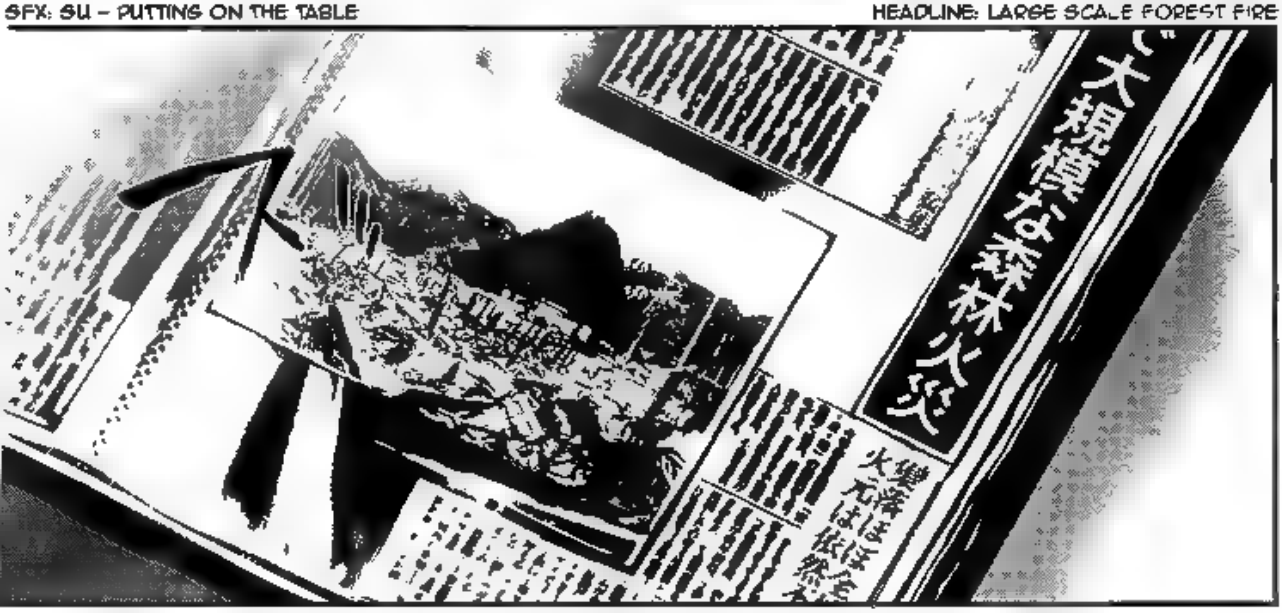
WELL, ABOUT THAT..
THERE JUST HAD TO BE A LOT OF EXCHANGING GOING ON!
AND FOR THAT YOU NEEDED TO GET THE MANUSCRIPT FROM HIM, THEN EDIT IT AND PRINT THE GALLEYS, THEN HE HAD TO PROOFREAD AND APPROVE THE CHANGES...

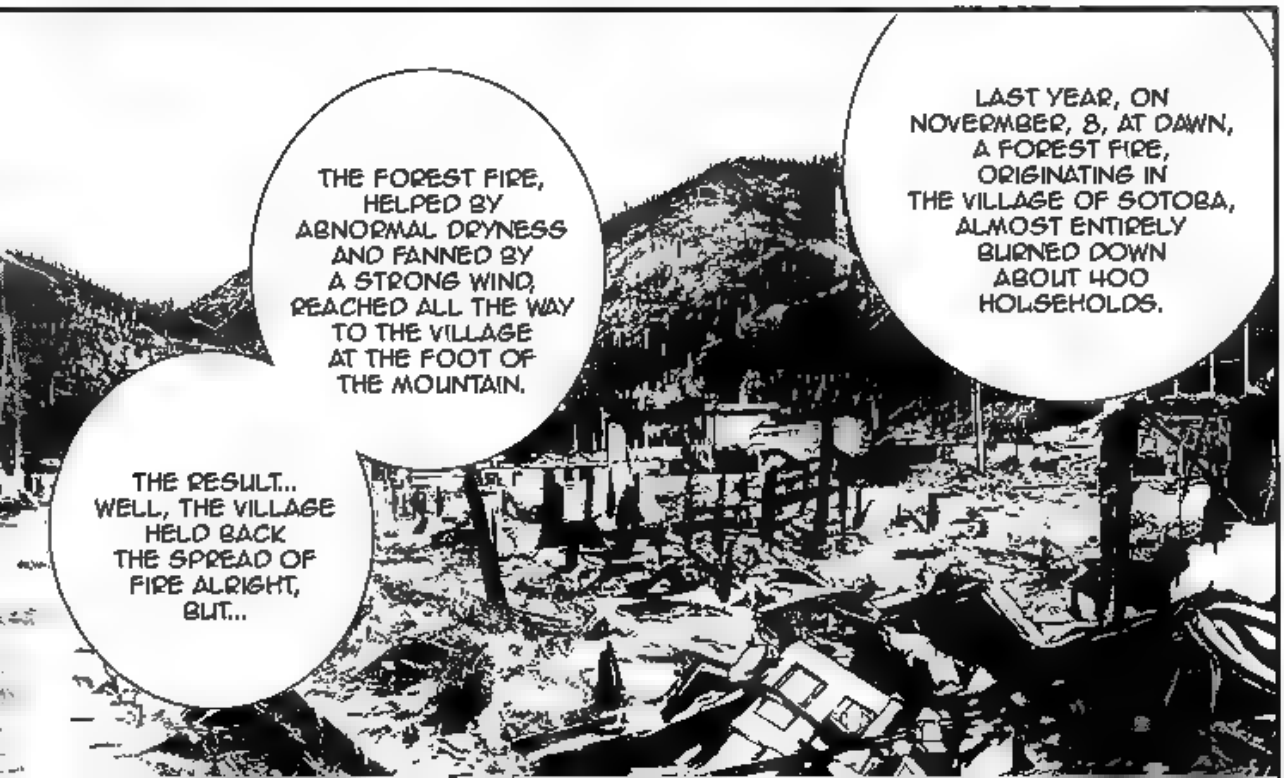
SFX: KU – GRIMACING

ゴゴゴ
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU MUST FEEL PRETTY UNEASY YOURSELF.
THAT UNTHINKABLE INCIDENT IS TO BLAME, ISN'T IT.
TRUTH BE TOLD, A VERY STRANGE INCIDENT THAT WAS, INDEED.

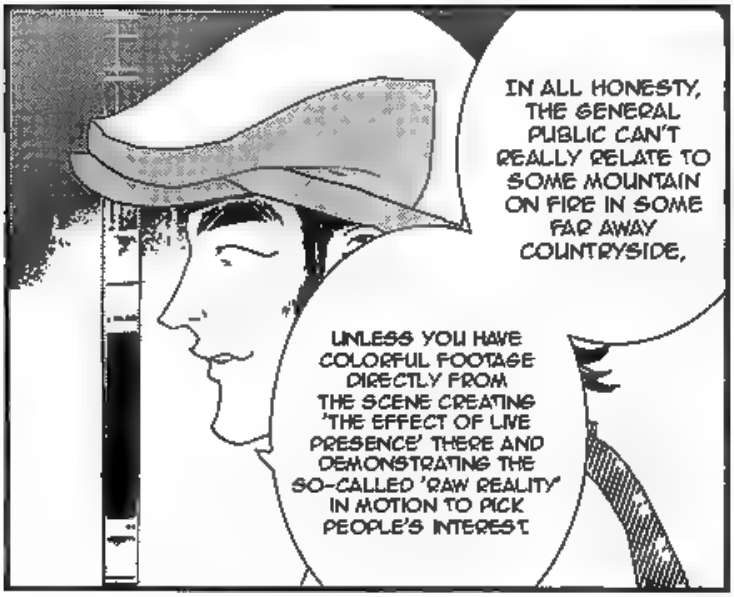
SFX: SU – PUTTING ON THE TABLE

HEADLINE: LARGE SCALE FOREST FIRE

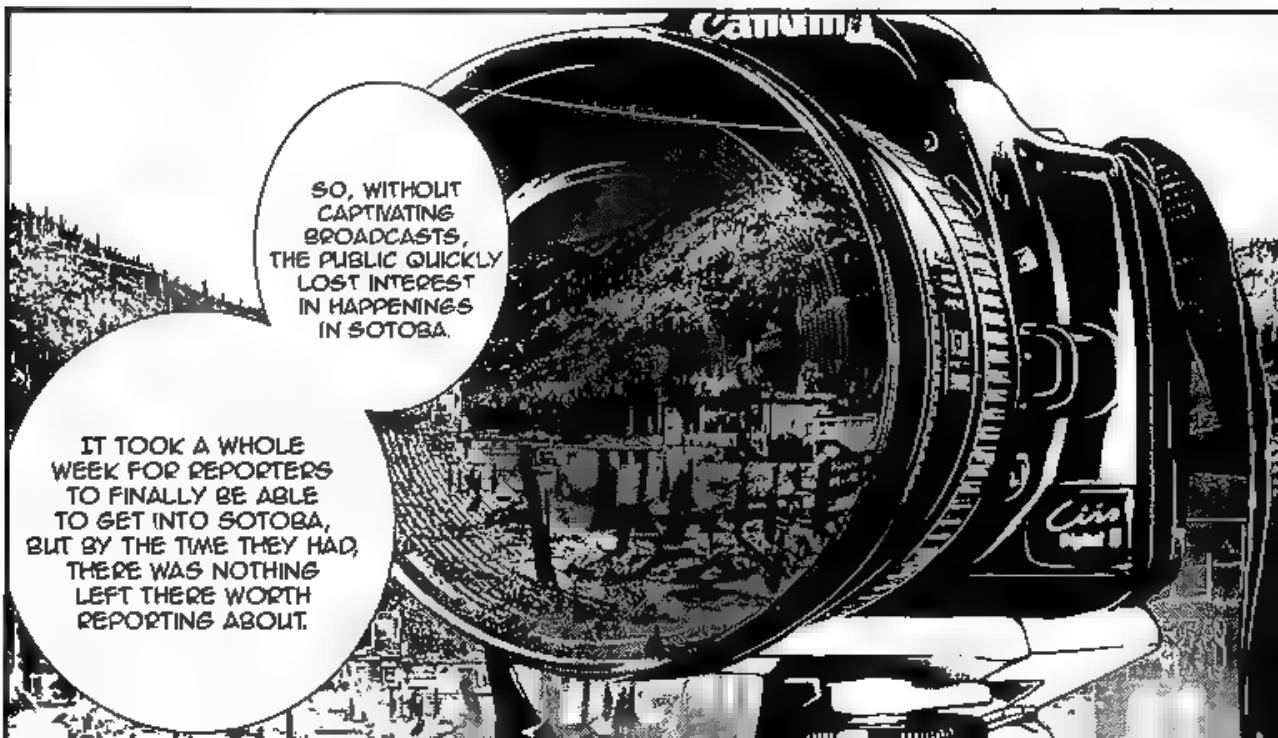



LAST YEAR, ON NOVERMBER, 8, AT DAWN, A FOREST FIRE, ORIGINATING IN THE VILLAGE OF SOTOBA, ALMOST ENTIRELY BURNED DOWN ABOUT 400 HOUSEHOLDS.
THE FOREST FIRE, HELPED BY ABNORMAL DRYNESS AND FANNED BY A STRONG WIND, REACHED ALL THE WAY TO THE VILLAGE AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN.
THE RESULT... WELL, THE VILLAGE HELD BACK THE SPREAD OF FIRE ALRIGHT, BUT...

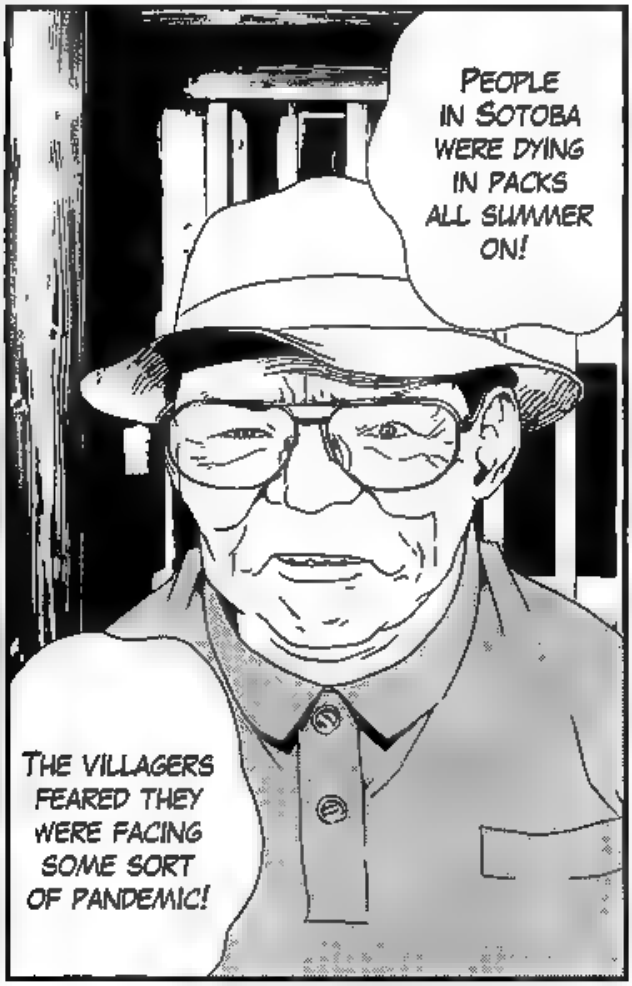
AT THE TIME REPORTERS FAILED TO GET ANY FOOTAGE FROM THE SCENE,
AS THE FIRE WAS SO INCREDIBLY STRONG THAT NO ONE COULD GET ANYWHERE NEAR THE AREA.


IN ALL HONESTY, THE GENERAL PUBLIC CAN'T REALLY RELATE TO SOME MOUNTAIN ON FIRE IN SOME FAR AWAY COUNTRYSIDE,
UNLESS YOU HAVE COLORFUL FOOTAGE DIRECTLY FROM THE SCENE CREATING 'THE EFFECT OF LIVE PRESENCE' THERE AND DEMONSTRATING THE SO-CALLED 'RAW REALITY' IN MOTION TO PICK PEOPLE'S INTEREST.

THE ABSENCE OF FOOTAGE FROM THE BURNING VILLAGE TURNED OUT TO BE GREATLY DAMAGING IN THE LONG RUN.

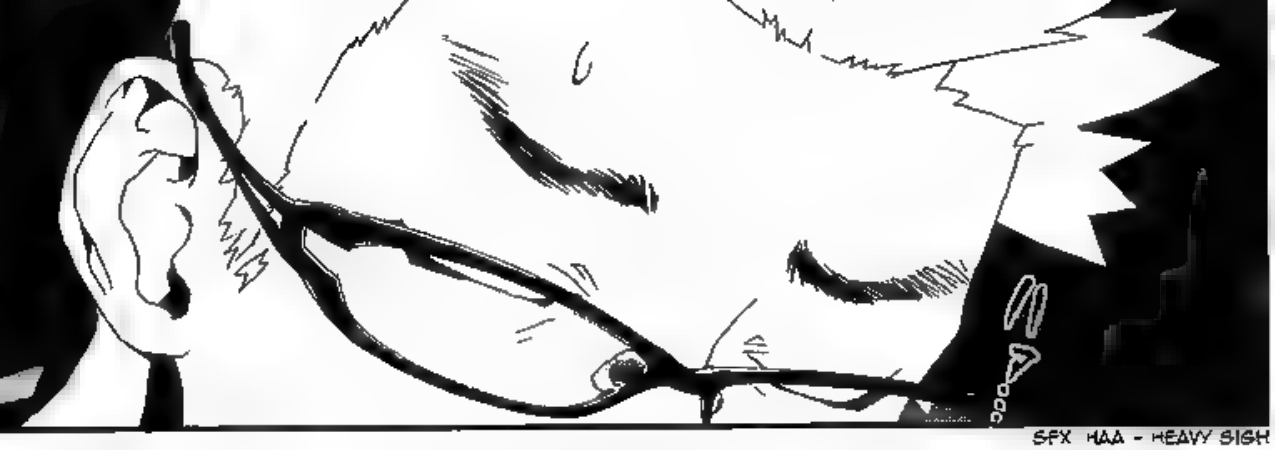

SO, WITHOUT CAPTIVATING BROADCASTS, THE PUBLIC QUICKLY LOST INTEREST IN HAPPENINGS IN SOTOBA.
IT TOOK A WHOLE WEEK FOR REPORTERS TO FINALLY BE ABLE TO GET INTO SOTOBA, BUT BY THE TIME THEY HAD, THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT THERE WORTH REPORTING ABOUT.

SIGN: MIZOBE TOWN ADMINISTRATION



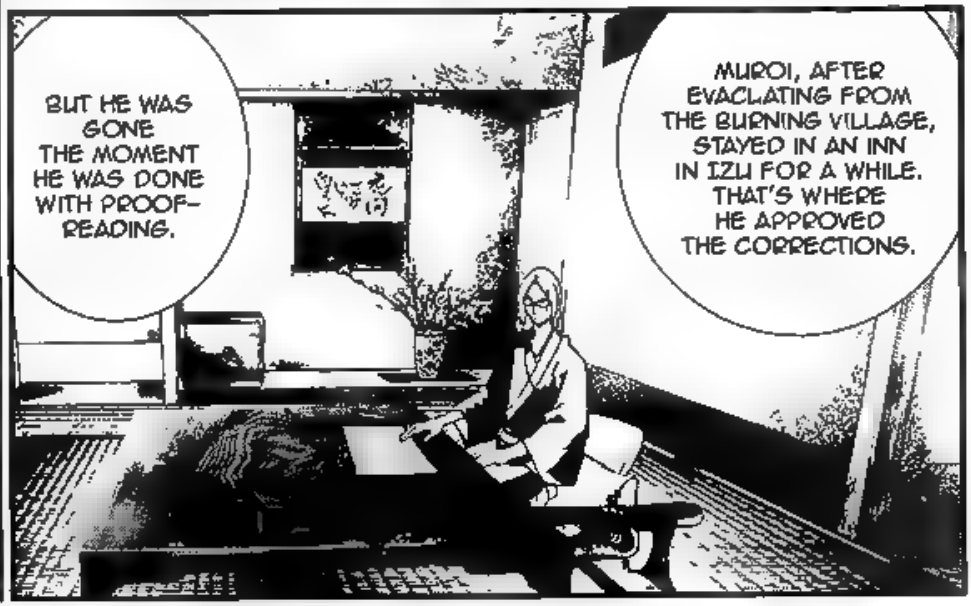
LIKE THESE DEAD BODIES, DISCOVERED IN THE WAKE OF THE FIRE, FOR EXAMPLE.
AND AFTER THAT, A LOT OF SIMILARLY BIZARRE THINGS THAT LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE TAKEN STRAIGHT FROM SOME SCARY GHOST STORY STARTED TURNING UP.

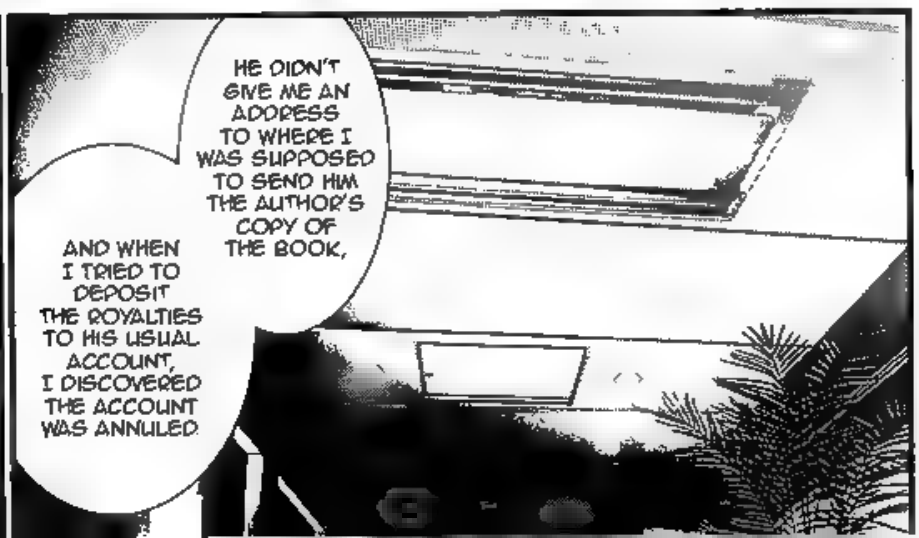
IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SOMETHING REALLY BIG HAPPENED IN SOTOBA AT THAT TIME!
IF WE CONSIDER THE NUMBER OF THE DEAD, THEN WE CAN ASSUME THAT MOST OF THE RESIDENTS... MOST OF THEM, PROBABLY, WERE INVOLVED SOMEHOW IN WHATEVER HAD HAPPENED THERE!
THOSE VILLAGERS, WHOSE WHEREABOUTS I MANAGED TO FIND SOMEHOW, EITHER SAY THEY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING OR JUST KEEP THEIR MOUTHS TIGHTLY SHUT.
THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WHO HAVE GONE DOWNRIGHT INTO HIDING.
SOME HANG THEMSELVES, MANY UNDERWENT HOSPITALIZATION.
BY THE WAY, THE MOST PROMINENT VILLAGERS SCATTERED ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AND NONE OF THEM EVER TRIED TO RETURN TO THE VILLAGE, EVEN AFTER 4 MONTHS HAD PASSED.
THE VILLAGE HAS NOW TRULY BECOME A GHOST TOWN.
SFX. BAN - BANG
HE HAS TO KNOW ALL THE DETAILS OF WHAT HAPPENED THERE!
AND MUROI-SAN WAS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THAT!



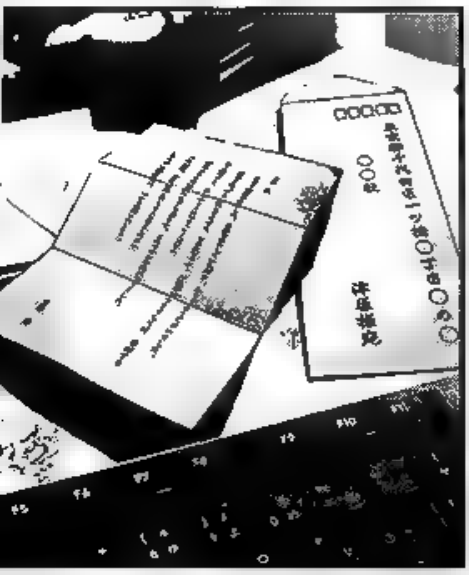
SFX: HAA - HEAVY SIGH

SFX: BA - PRODUCING A PEN AND A NOTEBOOK


BUT HE WAS GONE THE MOMENT HE WAS DONE WITH PROOF-READING.
MUROI, AFTER EVACUATING FROM THE BURNING VILLAGE, STAYED IN AN INN IN IZU FOR A WHILE. THAT'S WHERE HE APPROVED THE CORRECTIONS.


HE DIDN'T GIVE ME AN ADDRESS TO WHERE I WAS SUPPOSED TO SEND HIM THE AUTHOR'S COPY OF THE BOOK.
AND WHEN I TRIED TO DEPOSIT THE ROYALTIES TO HIS USUAL ACCOUNT, I DISCOVERED THE ACCOUNT WAS ANNULED.

THIS BOOK IS MUROI'S LAST WORK AS A WRITER.

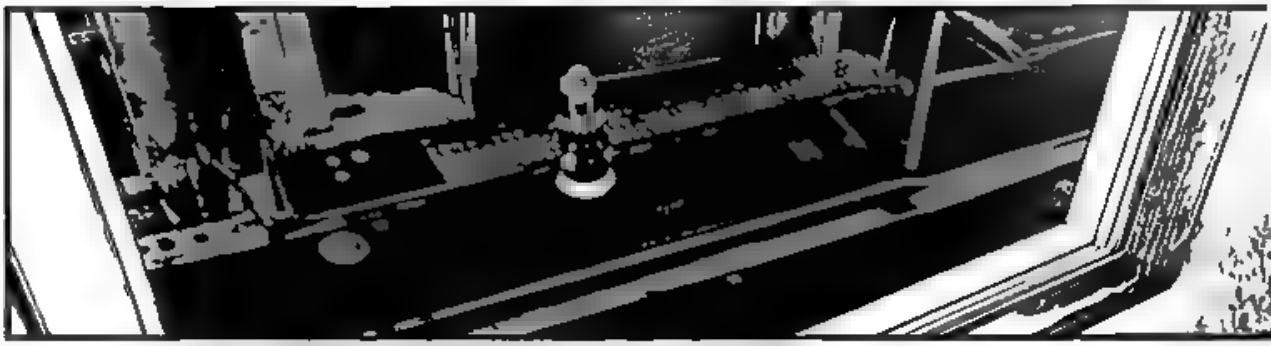


Dear Tsubara-sama,

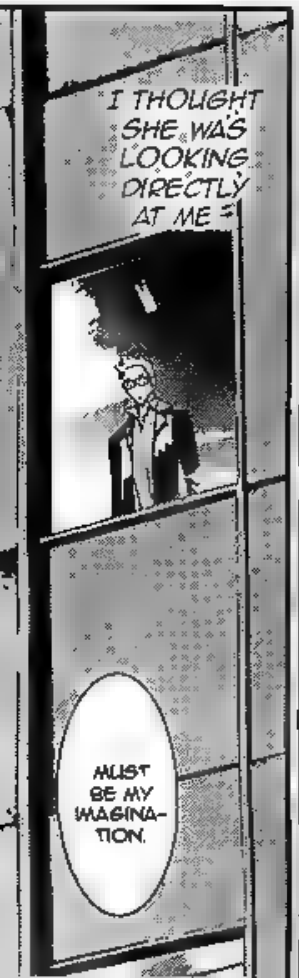
I saw a copy of the book in a book store.
I am truly grateful to you for improving my manuscript and turning it into such fabulous book.
I apologize you could now get in touch with me.
I am sorry to bother you with this, but I would like to ask you to use the royalties
that are due to me as a gift to charity or any other way you see fit.
This is my goodbye letter to you, Tsubara-sama.
I also would like to thank you for everything you have done for me.
From now on, please, consider the person named Muroi dead.
From the bottom of my heart I feel grateful for your kindness and your continued support.

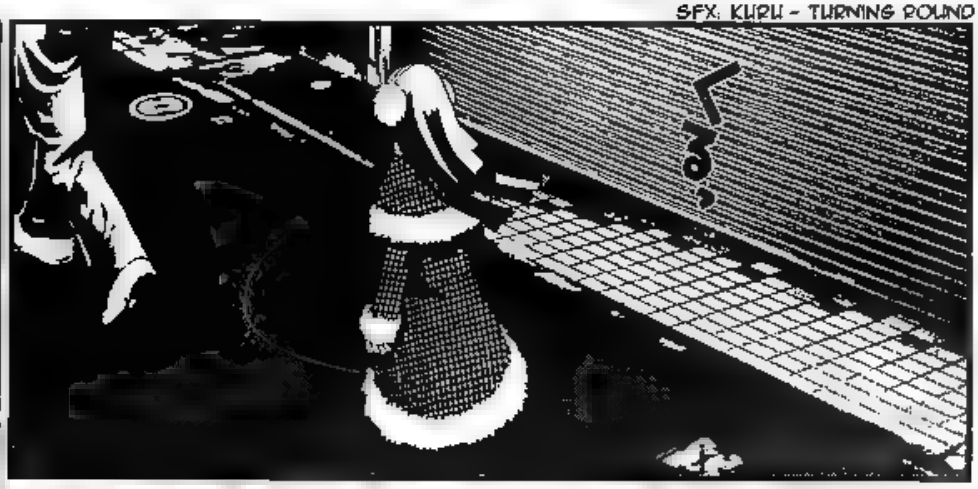
Sincerely yours,
Muroi.

SFX: HAA - LONG SIGH



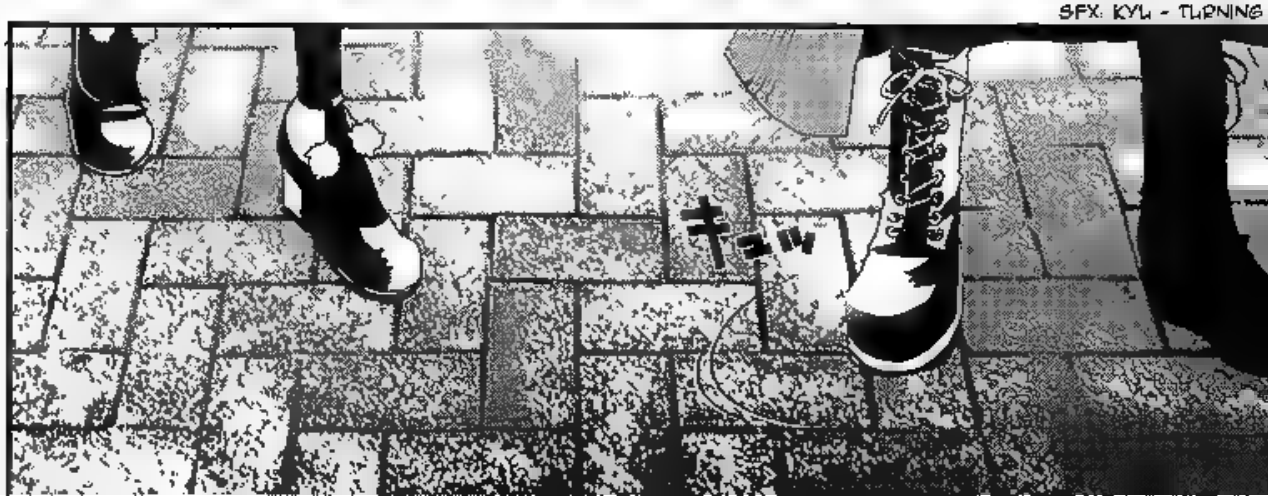
SFX: KURU - TURNING ROUND





SFX SUTA WALKING

SFX: KYU - TURNING

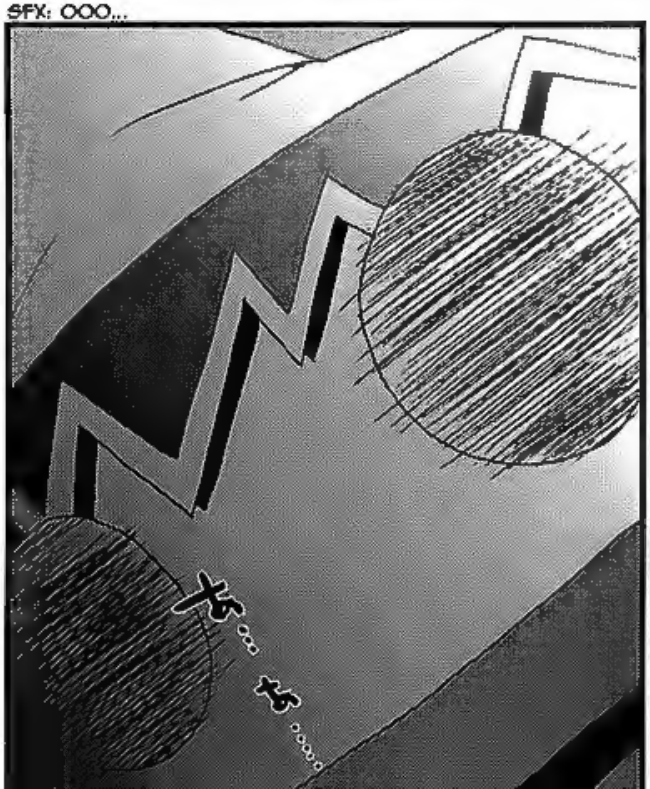


靴

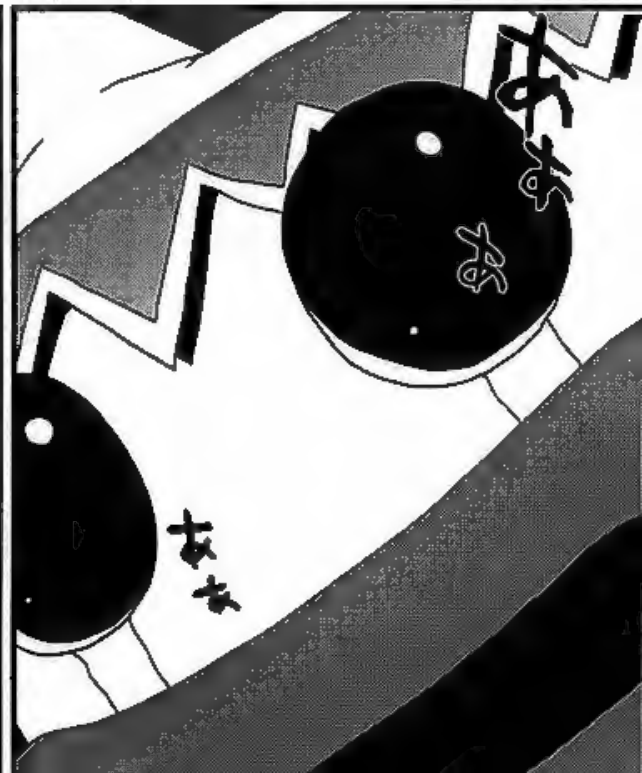
Nemlivo
Nemlivo

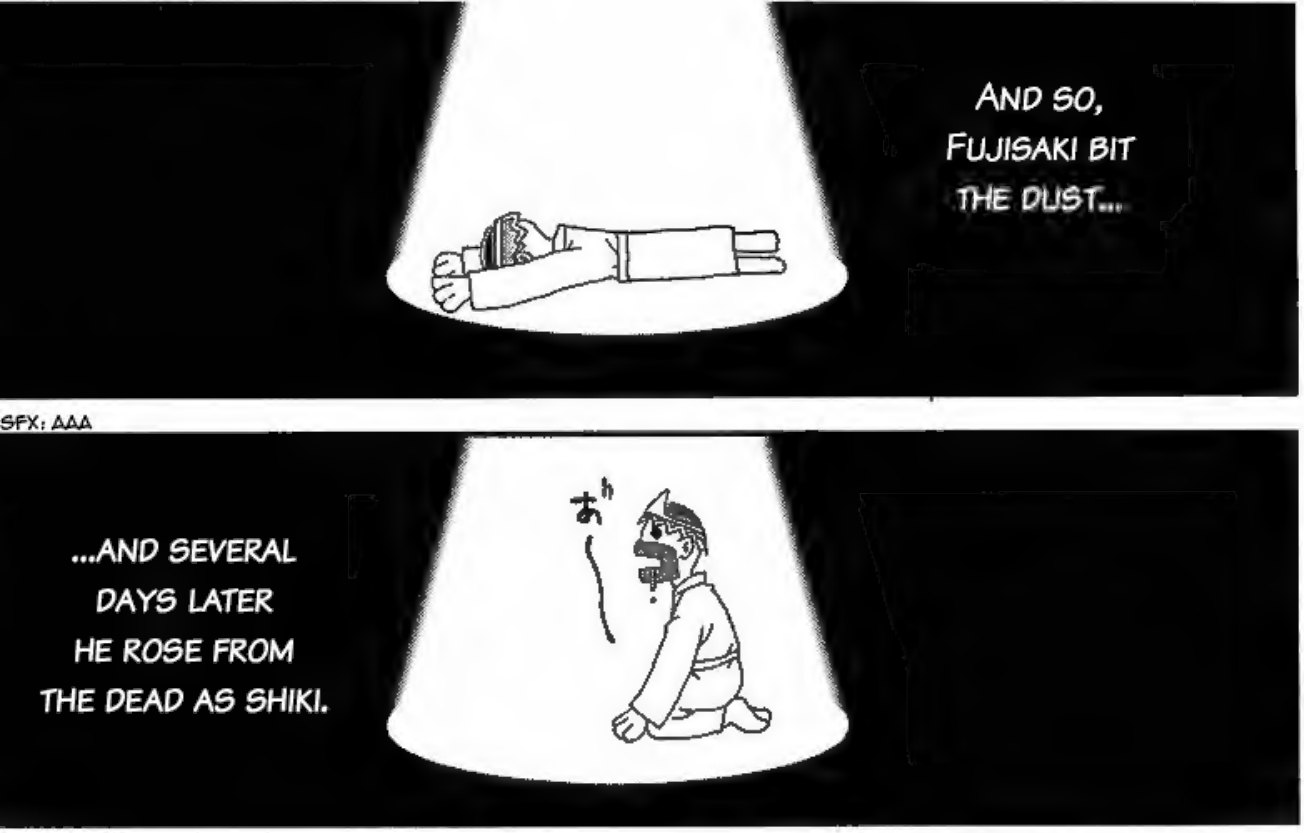
WHEREVER SWORDS AGREE...
中国国宝
山内書店
END

SFX: KAPOI ~ BITE



SFX: AAAA...




AND SO, FUJISAKI BIT THE DUST...

SFX: ΔΔΔ

...AND SEVERAL DAYS LATER HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD AS SHIKI.
あ〜

Read till the very end, please! And thank you!
WOW, I'D NEVER'VE THOUGHT I'D ACTUALLY TURN INTO SHIKI IN THE END!
OH WELL, I WAS A NOCTURNAL PERSON ANYWAY, AND NOW I'M ALSO IMMORTAL, SO IT'S ALL GOOD, I GUESS.
THANKS
BIG
酒店
shiki
EVERYBODY, RUN!!! THE VILLAGERS WENT SHIKI-HUNTING, AND THEY'RE ALREADY HERE!!!

Afterword.

The first work of Fujisaki I came across was his manga 'Psycho☆'. I was attracted by its cover and picked it up to leaf through. I remember like it was yesterday that I was deeply moved by beauty of the art and cleverness of jokes. His next work, 'Hoshin Engi', truly shocked me. Being a fan of the original story myself, I thought that Fujisaki-sensei as the mangaka to adapt that story was a really good choice. But when I opened the manga, I was so shocked that I put the volume back where I took it from. It sounds pretty impolite, but I don't regret my wording. Because, probably, no one could have imagined that 'Hoshin Engi' could be adapted into a manga quite like that. After having finished reading the first volume, I was deeply impressed. It turned out very Hoshin Engi-ish, but at the same time it clearly felt like Fujisaki-sensei's very own take on the story. To seamlessly blend two is very difficult, in my opinion. I admired how good he was at understanding the intricacies and messages of the story and in arranging the story with timely cliffhangers and twists.

When I first heard that that same Fujisaki-sensei wanted to adapt my humble novel into manga, I was flabbergasted. I felt that it was just too good to be true, and I simply couldn't believe it. I wondered if he was pressed into taking up my novel for adaptation by his editor, I felt if that was the case, then it was really wrong, and I even got a bit angry at the thought. But when a very good business proposal actually came, I finally allowed myself to rejoice. Particularly, I was on cloud nine from a lot of illustrations and even the title for the first chapter, that were enclosed (even though the project was still only in the stage of planning!), and thought to myself that all that was already more than enough.

Of course, I had no objections. Knowing how good 'Hoshin Engi' turned out, I just left everything to Fujisaki-sensei, shamelessly enjoying his work. Unlike me, who was like a tourist that boarded a big ship and spent time sightseeing, Fujisaki-sensei worked really hard. He treated the novel with such care that it made me, its author, almost feel ashamed.

After all the efforts invested into making the manga, it safely reached the end. No words can express my gratitude to Fujisaki-sensei for his care and attentiveness to the original novel. I am also very thankful to the editors for their deep care for the work and for granting me this opportunity to say my thanks.

And, of course, I want to say a heart-felt thank you to all readers who followed this dark and heavy story till the very end. Thank you very much!

Ono Fuyumi.